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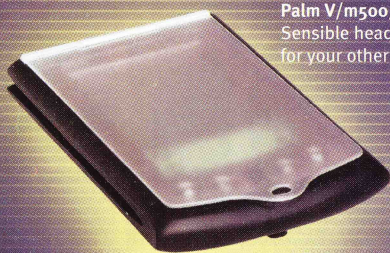
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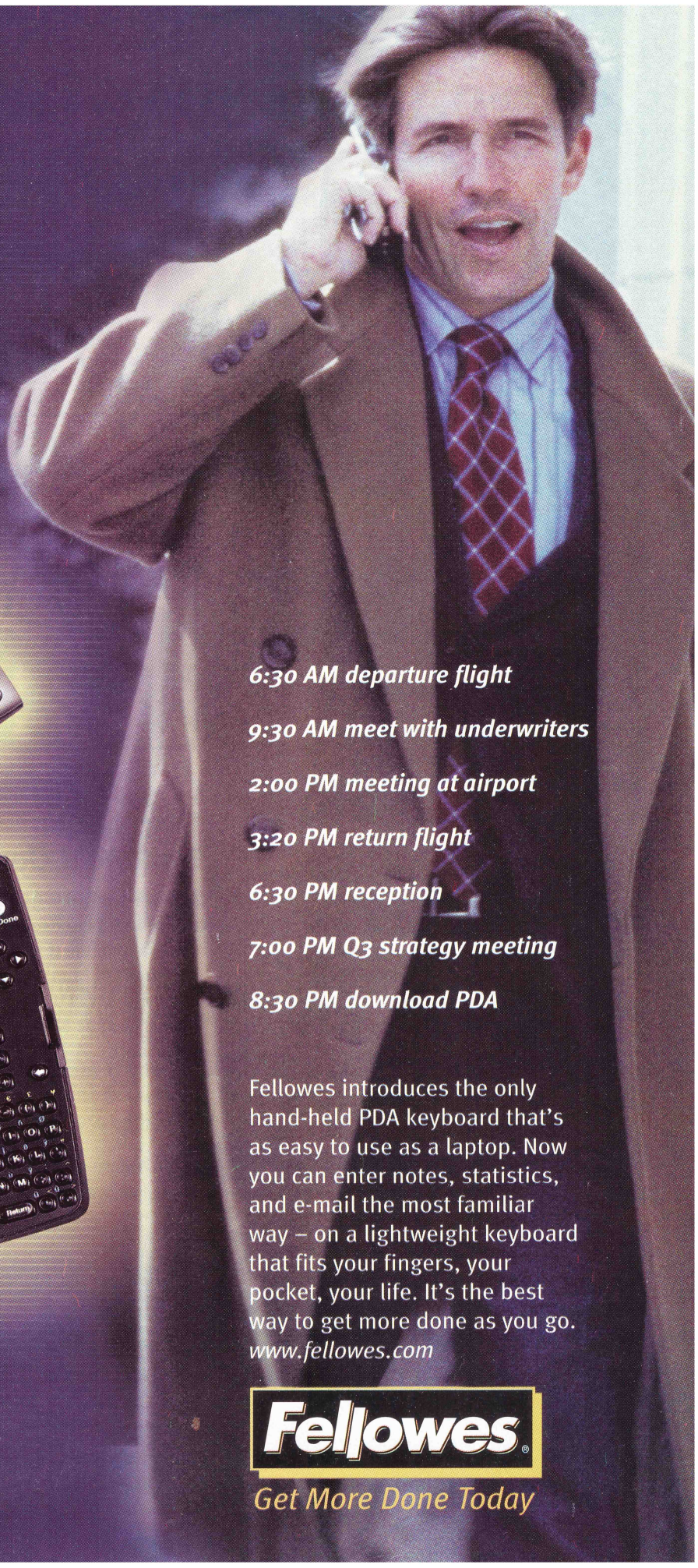
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9:30 AM meet with underwriters

2:00 PM meeting at airport

3:20 PM return flight

6:30 PM reception

7:00 PM Q3 strategy meeting

8:30 PM download PDA

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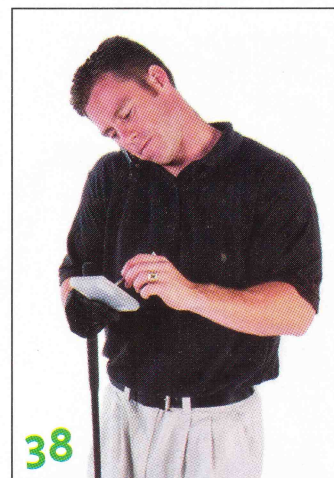
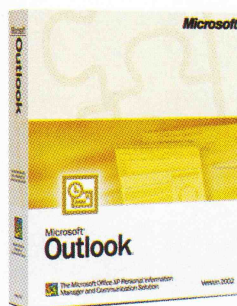
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Handheld Computing Magazine's Best Palm Powered Product of 2001 Awards

In a field of over 14,000 Palm Powered products, where do you start when you're looking for the next great thing to install on your handheld? Why, right here, in our annual look at the best Palm Powered products of the year. We've narrowed down the field to just over 100 finalists and winners. While there are thousands of wonderful products for your handheld, these are the best of the best.

Chip Shots: Handheld Golf Applications

It all started with a game of Bingo, Bango, Bongo and a Handspring Visor. Before it was done, author Rhett Anderson had rounded up dozens of Palm OS applications for the handheld-savvy duffer. Here you'll find the apps that score eagles—as well as the occasional triple-bogey.



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ENTERPRISE FEATURE

Improving Your Outlook 56

Out of the box, your Palm Powered handheld can exchange basic information with Microsoft Outlook. But what if you use more than the basic PIM functions in Outlook? If you want to remap fields, remove duplicates, take advantage of subfolders, and further refine your outlook experience, you'll find Dave Johnson's article a must-read.

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issue 5.1

All The Right Moves

There were a lot of happy faces at the PalmSource developer's conference this past February. Between the release of the i705 and Treo, announced plans from the Palm hardware company, the formation of the separate PalmSource software subsidiary, signs of explosive growth in the enterprise market, and rumors of innovative new handhelds from Sony, there was plenty of buzz at the conference.

The biggest news was the announcement of details of Palm OS 5.0, the new version that will support the faster ARM processors. You'll find the full scoop on Palm OS 5.0 in this month's Newsworthy section, but the short summary is that the new operating system primary focus is allowing a move to the new ARM processors while maintaining maximum compatibility with the thousands of existing Palm OS applications. Palm has added some new features, addressing the most critical weaknesses of the current Palm OS: enhanced screen resolution, sound support, data security, and enhanced wireless networking.

Technology buffs may wish Palm OS 5.0 was more ambitious. Where's the multitasking? Where's the revamp of the confusing VFS memory standard? Where are the multi-media APIs? Where are the custom fonts? They're coming, but not until the following version of the Palm OS.

In a perfect world, we'd see all these new technologies tomorrow. But realistically, had PalmSource tried to add all these new features in Palm OS 5.0, you wouldn't see new devices based on the speedy new ARM processors until at least mid-2003. Also, ground-up rewrites can fail—witness Apple's Copland, a 1995 attempt to rewrite the Mac OS that proved too ambitious to pull off. Mac users didn't get their new OS until the release of Mac OS X six years later.

Taking a more gradual approach offers Palm OS manufacturers a number of advantages. First and foremost, they can get next-

generation devices out to market this year—Palm has announced that its first Palm OS 5.0/ARM devices will ship this Fall. Second, this design approach encourages doesn't require developers to reengineer programs from the ground up. New applications can take advantage of enhanced ARM/Palm OS 5.0 features while remaining compatible with devices based on older Dragonball processors and earlier versions of the Palm OS. This not only bodes well for buyers of new devices, but for current users as well, who won't find their handhelds doomed to obsolescence upon OS 5.0's release.

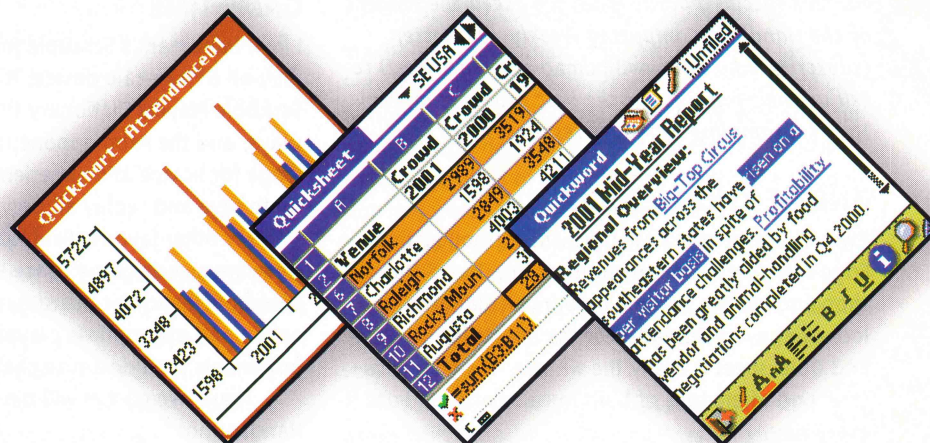
The following version of the Palm OS will be more ambitious, and owners of OS 5.0 devices should be able to upgrade them to add even more new capabilities. PalmSource has committed to a much-accelerated pace of new operating system releases, so 2003 is likely to bring even more exciting improvements to the platform.

In the meantime, the impending release of OS 5.0 and ARM processors doesn't necessarily mean you should postpone buying a new device until then. Hi-res screens and enhanced sound are already available on units from Sony and Handera, and security and wireless options can be added using third-party software. These solutions won't offer the enhanced speed and improved memory addressing of the ARM devices, but depending on how you use your handheld, these features may not be important enough to justify waiting another six months to start taking advantage of the new hi-res and wireless technologies available now.

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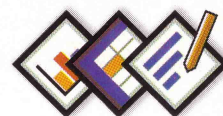
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For this special awards issue, we asked the readers of the *Handheld Computing Weekly* newsletter (subscribe now at www.hhcmag.com—it's free!) to tell us their top pics for the best products of 2001. Here's a sampling of reader responses.

AND HE KNOWS TOOLS

I would like to nominate Quicksheet from Cutting Edge software. I am an engineer in a Tool & Die shop and we live and die by our calculations. I've looked at every Spreadsheet that exists for the Palm and Quicksheet is easily the winner. It's fast, accurate, and offers tons of built in calculations. I use it every day.

I also give a nod to Quickword. I've used Wordsmith too, but I prefer Quickword because it is smaller and faster.

I would also like to nominate APCalc by Mike Davis as best calculator. It's cheap, yet as powerful as any calculator as I have ever owned

—Eric Fehrman
Fehrman Tool & Die, Inc.
www.ftdinc.com

TOP FIVE

As a long-time Palm owner, I have tried many, many 3rd party applications over the years. The ones that are my current "wouldn't want to live without" titles are:

- Datebk4, a very complete and customizable calendar replacement.
- TealScript, makes Graffiti a livable input method.
- AvantGo, a solid stop-gap solution for a non-wireless device (as long as you have a fast Internet connection).
- Trip, a big improvement over Palm's Expense applet.
- PocketJournal, a great way for me to track phone calls and messages through my Outlook Journal.

—Ron Schaefer
Solvang, Calif.

THE SHORT LIST

Action Names because of how it integrate PIM applications. WordSmith is the best—I write my articles with it. mMail from HezArts.com, because of how it handles attachments and it exports to DOC format. Shadow Plan is my favorite outliner, and it exports/imports DOC files.

—George Fragos

GAME TIME

I love Handmark's Scrabble for the Palm. It's easy to play on a grayscale device; it uses the official Scrabble Players Dictionary to verify correct word plays; and the Palm opponents provide a nice challenge for novice and experienced players. The ability to save and replay all previous games is nice, too.

My other favorite Palm game is Michael Read's freeware arcade game Space War. This is a nice blend of classic hex board games, Star Trek-style action and appropriate playability. Again, the Palm opponents provide a nice challenge.

These two games will never leave my Handspring!

—Dave Pasquantonio

THE OFFICE VIEW

I love the DataViz Documents to Go software. It's by far the best tool for viewing and editing documents, both spreadsheets and word text. Also, being able to view PDF files and PowerPoint slides is a great feature. Not to mention being able to sync both at home and at work! I have tried others, including Quicksheet, but this is the best.

—Lee Huntley

BEST... DEVICE... EVER!

By far the best Handheld is the Sony Clié. I have the PEG-N610C and it is the best Palm Powered device ever. I have owned the PalmPilot 5000, IIIe, IIIx, IIIC, Vx, and M505. No comparison.

—Marcus Rood

Handheld of the Year: Palm m505. It wasn't the most innovative, though with the SD slot there was some innovation. But, it is the smallest color Palm OS device! That's important to a lot of us who like to play games, check schedules, and basically keep our PDA with us at all times. Plus, it has a button design which is actually usable (do you hear us, Sony?).

—Kevin Crossman

HandEra 330. I love the card slots, voice recorder, jog wheel, hi-res screen, landscape mode, and all the other little things they have thrown in there. Now only if it was color!

—Steve Skyrms

The Samsung SPH-I300. Succeeds where other Palm OS PDA/phones have failed (including the Kyocera 6035) in delivering a fully useable Palm and a great wireless Internet experience. And the ergonomics are unbeatable.

—Suzanne D. Neumann

BUDGETS AND LISTS

Quik Budget 3.0 is without a doubt the coolest app out there for Palm OS handhelds. It's easy and that's the most important thing for me. I was having a problem with budgeting because I couldn't track where the money was going throughout the day. Now I can with this and my Visor Edge.

Also, Handy Shopper let's you create lists for everything. I used it for travel recently because several people have posted their lists for downloading on the net. I have a to buy list, a bill payer list, a weekly to do list, and a travel pack list. You just check, check, and go. It's fabulous.

—Karen Homan

BIBLES, MILEAGE, AND TUNES, OH MY

My Bible from Laridian.com. An incredibly fast search compared to BibleReader from OliveTree.com. Although Bible Reader has many more versions and options, with notes, it's impossible to really take advantage of all of those features without an expansion slot which I don't have on my Palm Vx.

I also love VehicleLog from Little Wing Software. I'm sure there are better mileage trackers and expense reporting apps, but for its size and the utility to import into Excel or Access, etc. it has been very helpful.

My other favorite is a MIDI sequencer that works with my add-on MIDI synthesizer (tsunamidi) or through the HotSync Cradle as a MIDI interface to an keyboard synthesizer or other synth with a MIDI interface. Plus, it's a free download. It also gives you a utility to compress the MIDI files using zcompression.

I also love my Microsoft Project link from Natara called Project @ Hand.

—Shawn Walden



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by Benjamin E. Sones

And Now For Something Completely Different

Every once in a while, it is nice to try something a bit... out of the ordinary. Game developers tend to fall into ruts, shaping their products around popular genres and accepted standards. That is why it is refreshing when someone breaks out of the mold and tries something unusual. The following games do not fit neatly into any category. They are not quite like any other game you have played before. That's a good thing.

Dictionary.com defines "minimalism" as "Use of the fewest and barest essentials or elements, as in the arts, literature, or design." It could just as well add "see Well of Zion," one of a trio of games by Jim DuBois that takes simplicity to a completely new level. The game is so simple, in fact, that it requires no instructions. Fire it up. Start clicking buttons. You'll figure it out. You are an adventurer in the Well of Zion, an underground labyrinth filled with magic and monsters. The object is to delve down to the 100th level of the dungeon, to "receive the special knowledge there." More to the point, the object is to do it as quickly as possible. Every turn you have to choose from an array of actions, each of which offers different benefits. Do you spend the turn training, thus adding to your experience? Do you explore the level that you are on, possibly uncovering a cache of gold, or a magical item, or a monster encounter? Do you go down a level (where the encounters get tougher), or up a level (if you find yourself in over your head)?

There is something almost Zen-like about the whole affair, which is surprisingly compelling. DuBois offers two other games in Addition to the Well of Zion (you can buy all three for \$25.00). The Great Desert casts you as the leader of a tribe; the goal is to create as much Art, Tranquility, and People as possible over the course of 1,000 years (turns). The Ruins of Ashkelon is an "explore and encounter" game similar to Zion, but with more of a text adventure flavor. All three are excellent.

Rolelore's Lordinium is not exactly what you would call "user friendly." It features a bizarre and completely unintuitive interface. It is never immediately clear what screen elements are interactive (or what they do), and there is little continuity from screen to screen. Everything in the game—and out of the game, if you count the tutorial—is written in severely broken English. It's more a speed bump than a road block; when the tutorial informs you that "once in charge of, you have limited time to fullfil (sic) a mission," you have a pretty good idea what it means. It takes some getting used to, though.

The game is worth the effort. It's one of the most refreshingly unique interpretations of role-playing on any

platform to come along in some time, mixing elements of strategy and politics with an environment that evolves based on your actions. And if the interface is confusing, at least the grayscale art is quite attractive.

NOW PLAYING

The Well of Zion

\$10.00, Jim DuBois,
www.wellofzion.com

Well of Zion	
On Level:	2
Health:	7/7
Strength:	4
Charisma:	4
Exp. Level:	2
Experience:	52
Gold:	7
Turns:	6

You are in the Well of Zion.

Show Items
 Explore Up Down Train
 +Str +Chr +Health

The Well of Zion is almost Zen-like in its simplicity.

The Great Desert

\$10.00, Jim DuBois,
www.wellofzion.com

The Great Desert 7	
People:	7
Food:	210
Knowledge:	4
Junk:	131
Art:	0
Tranquility:	0
Year:	16

Roving band...
 +7 People
 +11 Food
 +9 Junk
 -1 Food

(No special powers)

Wander Pray Search Camp

Write the history of your tribe in The Great Desert.

The Ruins of Ashkelon

\$10.00, Holger Schufflitz,
www.wellofzion.com

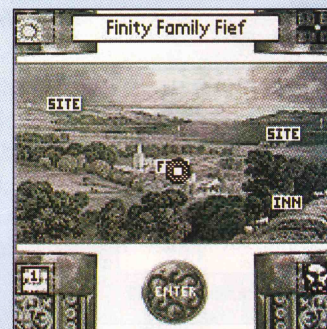
The Ruins of Ashkelon 0	
Sand Dunes	Turn: 5
You travel north to the Sand Dunes	Hlth: 3/3
	Str: 3
	Chr: 3
	Dex: 3
	Exp: 133
	Junk: 0
	Food: 13

Feed Lizards Do! S


The Ruins of Ashkelon offers a bit more complexity than The Great Desert or The Well of Zion... but only a bit.

Lordinium 1.07

\$14.95, Rolelore,
www.rolelore.com

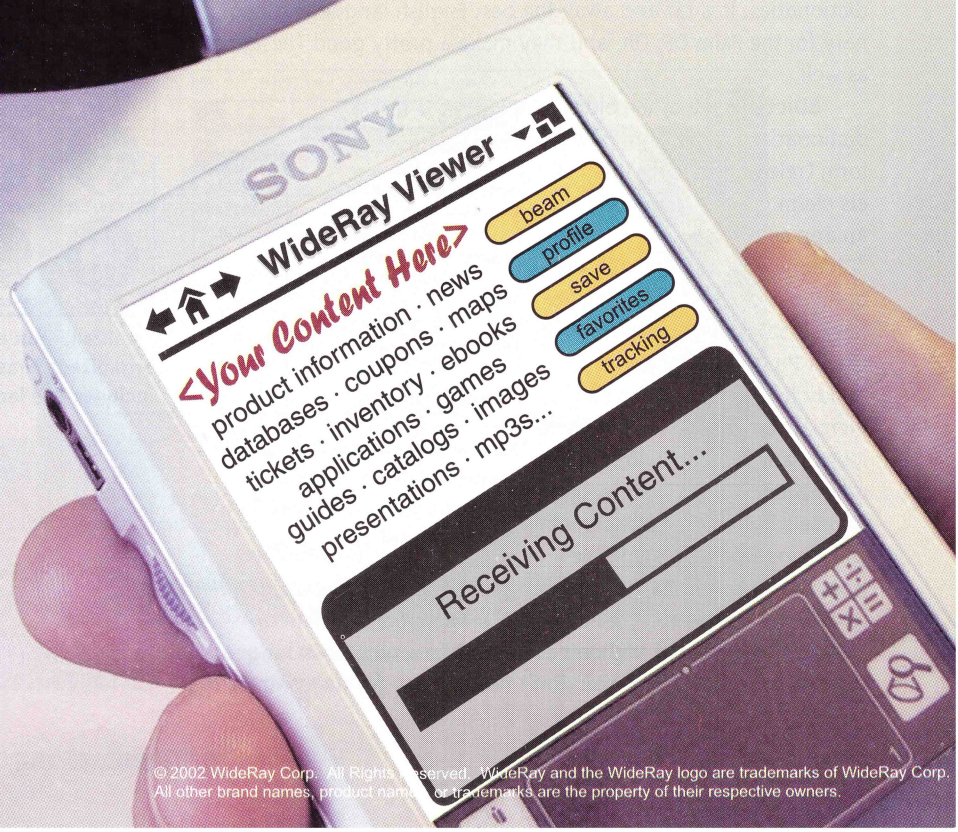


Once you get past the perplexing interface and broken English, Lordinium becomes a fascinating experiment in role-playing.



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by Jason Cross

Palm Lexicons

Welcome to the column formerly known as Freeloader. What happened to it? Well, simply put, nearly every piece of Palm software these days is shareware, not freeware. Even the smallest, simplest, me-too applications have a price tag attached for full use. As much as I'd love to highlight free software, it's not very beneficial to you if that means scraping the bottom of the software barrel just to find stuff that's free. Better to change the column to cover all the good software that doesn't get a full review in this magazine, or groups of related programs that fill a specific need. I'll try not to change it again.

There never seems to be a dictionary around when you need one, but don't you always have your handheld with you? So why not stuff it with a few good language tools? If you've going to have only one dictionary on your Palm device, make it **Noah Lite**. It's a very easy to use app with several different sized database files, up to 122,000 words if you've got around 5 MB to spare. Noah Pro, the \$20 pay version, adds support for external memory cards and the ability to create your own dictionaries. It is far and away the best English language dictionary for the Palm OS. Oh, and they make a pretty good Thesaurus as well.

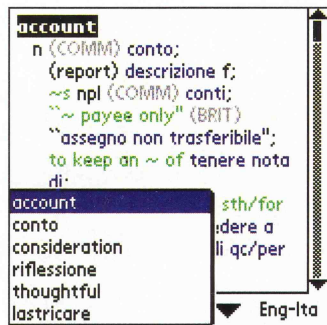
BDicty is one of the oldest dictionaries for the Palm platform (released in 1999, the makers claim the only older one was an app simply called "Dictionary"), and it's still one of the best. As an English dictionary, it's not as good as Noah Lite or Pro, but it has some handy features in the \$10 commercial version like the ability to lookup a word from within any other program. It's just a shell for use with language packs, of which you'll find 22 available from Arabic to Vietnamese. Most of these are available in bi-directional translation files (English-to-French or German-to-English, for instance) and cost around \$8-12 a pop, or in language bundles for around \$30. You don't need to pay for the commer-



Noah Lite is the best English dictionary for the Palm OS, period.



Now what's the Russian word for "capitalism" again? BDicty's language packs are great, but the prices add up.



Serious language students should spring for the \$35 Collins Dictionaries. You get what you pay for.

cial version of the BDicty shell to use them, though.

The **HarperCollins translation dictionaries** are well known in academic circles as great tools for those studying a foreign language. Dutch developer TomTom offers Palm-based versions for French, German, Spanish, and Italian. Sure, they're expensive (\$35 a piece!), but they each include the entire contents of their paper cousins, over 100,000 words in each language. It's probably overkill if you're not a student or visiting a foreign country for some time, but it's the best. Demo versions, which only cover words starting with "A" and a few computer terms, can help you decide if its worth the money.

If you're traveling to Europe, you simply must go buy **SmallTalk** from LandWare. It's a phrasebook of sorts, full of translations for common questions and greetings and such. The genius of its design is in the organization: big, clear buttons divide the phrases into logical categories and sub-categories, and the entire program is made to be read at a glance while on the go. Once you've asked that Italian guy on the street when the bus comes, he can even tap on your screen to give a reply, which will be translated back into English. It's fantastic. The price includes five languages (English, French, German, Italian, and Spanish), perfect for a European vacation, but you can delete the ones you don't need after installation.

Smalltalk is an amazingly well organized phrasebook that includes five languages.

And yes, there's a demo of this \$19.95 program so you can see for yourself just how slick it is.

NoahLite, Ars Lexis, www.arslexis.com

BDicty, Beiks, www.beiks.com/palmzonebg/Bdictyen.htm

Collins Dictionaries, TomTom, www.palmtop.nl/palm/products.html#dict

Smalltalk, Landware, www.landware.com/smalltalk/

Turn It Up To X?

This is shaping up as the year when Mac OS X becomes the desktop of choice for most Mac users. OS 9 only products were extremely rare at January's MacWorld Conference and Expo, San Francisco. At the Expo, Steve Jobs announced that all new Macs, including the new G4 based iMac, default to OS X at start-up. The final nail in OS 9's coffin is probably iPhoto. This must-have software for digital photography has the distinction of being the first OS X-only product in Apple's digital hub strategy. It's clear that Mac OS 9's days are numbered.

As a Palm OS user, and a Mac owner, is it time for you to switch to X? Judging by the number of downloads of the beta version of Palm Desktop 4.0, released in late December, it seems that many of you have already decided to make the switch. If you haven't made the leap, though, there may be good reasons to wait a few months.

Palm's latest Mac desktop software is offered in two versions, one which requires Mac OS X 10.1 or greater, and another for Mac OS 9. Both versions are currently in Beta, which means that the upgrade hasn't been "officially" released by Palm. It also means that it may not work as expected, and no technical support is available from Palm. Palm has not publicly stated when a final release will be available.

Other than support for performing HotSyncs under Mac OS X, Palm Desktop 4.0 offers a new System Appearance décor to match OS X's Aqua interface style. The OS X style is also carried forward in the software's new Toolbar layout, icons, the addition of Mac OS X Services support and an animated HotSync icon in the Dock.

Palm Desktop 4.0, according to Palm, also improves data synchronization and provides a more consistent transfer of data between the Palm OS handheld and Palm Desktop. New support is provided for importing vCard and vCal files. Drag an address or calendar event to the desktop and email them to other Palm users. The Instant Palm Desktop, formerly in the menu bar under Mac OS 9, is now on the Dock. Click on the Dock's Palm Desktop for easy access to your data or to create new items.

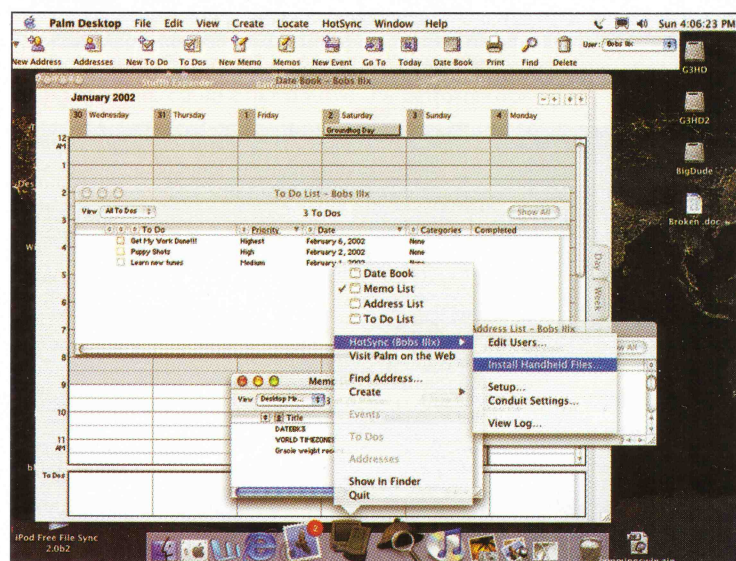
If you rely on third-party conduits, you might want to wait before making the move to Palm

Desktop 4.0. The Beta software doesn't support conduits provided by developers for Mac OS 9. I rely on both AvantGo and WordSmith conduits to do my work; both are currently unavailable. According to an AvantGo spokesperson, the company is currently evaluating customer demand for an OS X version. If you would like an OS X upgrade, head to www.avantgo.com and leave the company feedback. In any case, be sure to check to see if Mac OS X conduits are available for your important software before you upgrade.

Should you make the jump to Palm Desktop 4.0? That depends. If you find yourself using OS X as your primary Mac OS, and you don't mind losing conduits for some of your commercial Palm OS software, then it's probably time to switch. I'm guessing most of you who fit this profile have already converted. If you're on the fence, it is probably best to take your time and wait until the bugs have been worked out.

Current information on the status of Palm applications, both for the Desktop and third-party conduits for Mac OS X, is available at www.apple.com/macosex. This page will also guide you to the link for downloading the Palm Desktop Beta.

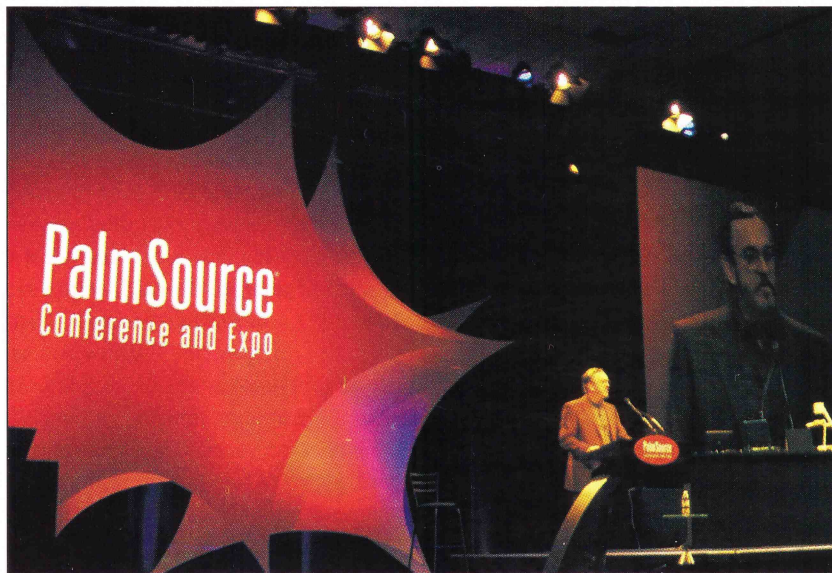
**Have a question?
A tip you want
to share? Drop
us a line at
mac@hhcmag.com!**



Palm's newest Desktop for Mac OS X, version 4.0, has the right look and feel, but is it ready for prime time?

NEWSWORTHY

PalmSource 2002: New Company, New OS



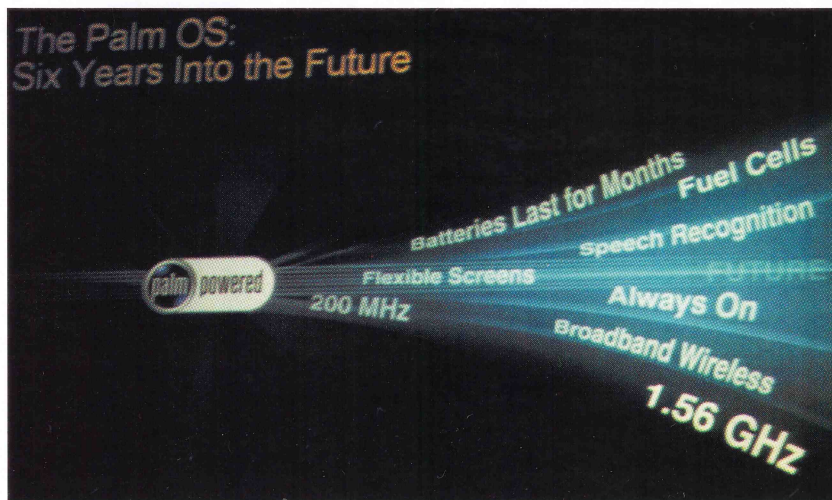
PalmSource, Inc.'s David Nagel wows the crowd with details on Palm OS 5.0.

Appropriately enough, the PalmSource developer's conference held this past February was the venue for the announcement of the new name for the now-independent Palm OS subsidiary, which was formerly known by the awkward moniker "Palm Platform Solutions Group." The software division will now be known as "PalmSource," just like the show.

The biggest news at the show was the public revelation of details about Palm OS 5.0 and the move to the ARM processor platform. The new Palm OS version will be designed to run on ARM processors, but will include emulation capabilities for running existing Palm OS programs written for the Motorola 68K/Dragonball processor. In fact, for Palm OS 5.0, most developers will continue to write 68K code, allowing programs to run on both older Palm Powered devices and new ARM units. The new OS does have provision for including native ARM code when developers need that extra burst of speed, but don't expect many ARM-only programs until a later version of the Palm OS is released.

Palm is aiming for about 80% compatibility with existing applications. The programs that are likely to break are Hackmaster hacks (which aren't can't be emulated due to the basic operating system "tricks" Hackmaster and its clones use to interface with the OS) and games that directly access the hardware. The vast majority of productivity and enterprise applications should work on the new ARM devices with no problems. Applications running on ARM-based handhelds will see speedups ranging from indiscernible to up to 20x their original speed.

Along with ARM support, Palm OS 5.0 boasts some new features, including enhanced security, Bluetooth and 802.11b support, and customizable launcher colors. Hi-res screens are now supported, as



An optimistic look at the future of Palm OS handhelds.

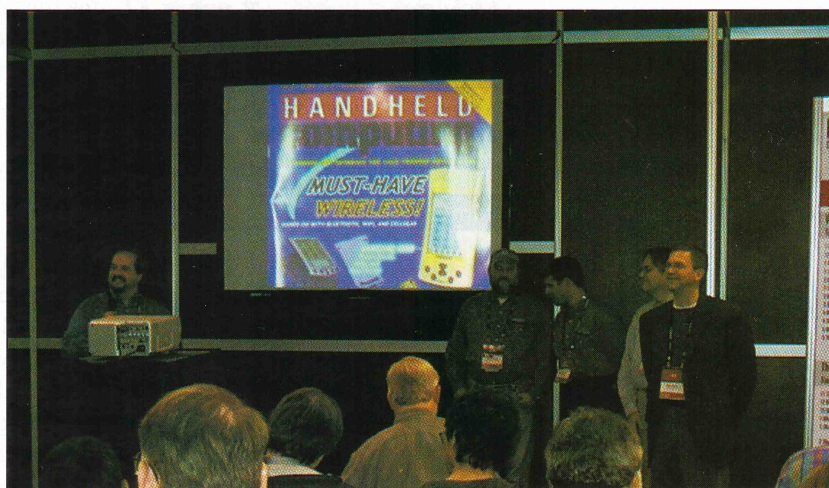
erating System

is 16-channel sampled sound playback and capture. While all of those are significant features, the list of enhancements was kept fairly short in order to get ARM-based handhelds out quickly. Expect dramatic additions to the operating system, such as multi-threading, memory protection, and so on in the following version of the OS. PalmSource promises that we'll see major operating system updates coming at a greatly accelerated pace compared to the company's previous track release schedule. Palm OS 5.0 handhelds will be upgradeable to future OS versions.

The first generation of ARM-processor Palm handhelds are likely to offer graphic and sound capabilities similar to today's high-end Sony Clie models, but with faster processors that should improve performance in diverse operations ranging from gaming and multimedia to managing large amounts of enterprise data. Prototype ARM boards were on display at PalmSource running fast, full-screen animations, and processing video in real time.

There were no concrete details of exactly when ARM-based handhelds would ship, or how they'd be configured. However, Palm did announce that it would ship its first ARM-based units by this fall, using ARM chips produced by Texas Instruments. Motorola and Intel also showed prototype ARM-based boards running Palm OS applications; it remains to be seen which licensees will use chips from those companies. Palm referred to the upcoming ARM handhelds as being "wireless-ready," but that could mean nothing more than the presence of Universal Connectors and SD card slots that could accept add-on wireless devices.

Don't write off the Dragonball chip yet, though. Motorola demonstrated a 66MHz version of the chip at PalmSource. In addition to the increased clock speed, the Dragonball SuperVZ also offers improved



Denny Atkin, Calvin O. Parker, Dave Johnson, Mac columnist Bob Eller, and Brighthand's Steve Bush at the PalmSource Handheld Computing Q&A session.

memory performance. This means that handhelds using this chip could offer double the performance of 33MHz devices. Nobody's announced a Dragonball SuperVZ handheld yet, but we wouldn't be surprised to see one from one of the Palm licensees by summer.

Palm announced at the show that 21 million Palm OS handhelds had been sold, 16 million of those by Palm itself. The number of known Palm OS applications has surpassed 14,000, and there are over 10,000 ebooks available for the platform.

The PalmSource expo had a very different feel from previous conferences. There was more software—especially for the enterprise market—than hardware shown in the expo pavilion. On various days the show was open to enterprise users looking for new handheld solutions, and to Palm enthusiasts. On the morning of the show, a PalmSource representative mentioned that over 900 enthusiasts had pre-registered to visit the show floor.

BLURBS

Price Cuts Galore

Buying a new handheld just got that much cheaper. Handspring has dropped the price of the Visor Edge to \$199, the Visor Neo to \$170, and the Visor Pro to \$230. Palm has dropped the m105's price to \$149, with the m100 at \$99. Handera has dropped the TRGPro to \$219.99. Finally, Sony announced the T415's price had dropped to \$250. Meanwhile, IBM announced it will discontinue its WorkPad handheld line, which consisted of renamed Palm handhelds with a sleek black paint job. IBM will instead sell Palm-branded handhelds.

PDABuzz Joins

Handheld Media Group

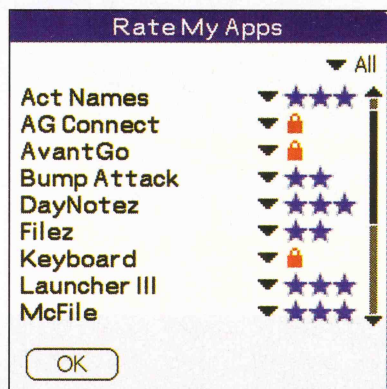
In mid-February, *Handheld Computing Magazine's* parent company announced that it had purchased the PDABuzz.com web site. One step in an ambitious expansion planned over the course of 2002, the acquisition of PDABuzz not only extends the Handheld Media Group web presence, but also brings noted handheld expert Wes Salmon (the site's founder) into our editorial group. Check out the site at www.pdabuzz.com, and watch these pages and PDABuzz for some exciting cooperative projects in coming months.

Handheld Computing Developer Launches

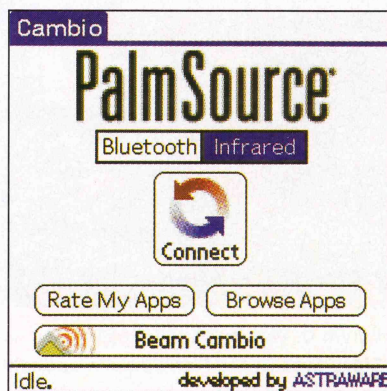
Speaking of ambitious expansion, we've launched a new electronic newsletter,

—continued

PalmSource, Inc. Previews Cambio Application Sharing



Cambio allows users to rate the applications on their handhelds, so others can browse and download them.



Cambio supports transfer of non-copy-protected files via IR and Bluetooth connections.

Now that PalmSource, Inc. is operating as an independent development company, look to the division to branch out beyond simply updating the Palm OS. PalmSource has committed to creating innovative new applications that don't compete with third-party applications, but instead help to open new handheld markets and fill existing functionality gaps.

One of the first applications unveiled under this new development initiative is Cambio, designed by PalmSource and written (at least in its prototype form) by Astraware. Much to the frustration of developers, many novice handheld users don't realize there are thousands of add-on applications that they can download to the Palm Powered handhelds. Cambio is an application-sharing program designed to encourage users to "spread the word" about good add-on programs—and to spread the programs as well.

With Cambio loaded, a user rates the beamable applications on his or her handheld, and optionally adds comments as well. Cambio users can connect with each other via Bluetooth or IR connections and browse the shared applications on each handheld. Select the applications you're interested in, and Cambio will transfer them to your own handheld. With IR, this is a useful technology, but with Bluetooth it really becomes intriguing. Imagine sitting in a crowded airport in a near future where Bluetooth is more prevalent, and logging on to Cambio and discovering a half-dozen other handheld users offering applications and games to "download," complete with ratings.

While Cambio hasn't been officially released yet, copies were being beamed around PalmSource. How quickly the prototype program spreads via casual beaming will be an interesting indicator of its potential reach.

Sony's New Device Tease

Perhaps the most interesting product shown at February's PalmSource conference wasn't really a product, but rather a design mock-up that attendees of a Sony keynote were given a 15-second glimpse of. Opening this clamshell device revealed a tall screen, filling the entire top portion of the v-shaped clamshell, with a keyboard on the lower half. Using the stylus? Twist the screen 180-degrees and close the clamshell to leave only the screen exposed. Interestingly, the prototype appeared to incorporate a tiny digital camera lens as well. Although discussion boards are already filled with commentary about the new design, it should be noted that this was a design prototype, akin to a



Sony's prototype handheld featured a large, rotatable screen that opens to reveal a small keyboard.

concept car at an auto show, not an announced product. Still, it was the talk of the show, and we hope to see such a device from Sony soon.

(Images courtesy asciiz4.com)

Palm Unveils m130 and m515, Bluetooth Card

In early March, Palm released two new handhelds, both improved versions of earlier designs. Powered off, the new m130 looks like an m125 with a new faceplate. Turn it on, though, and you'll discover a vibrant 16-bit color screen—the brightest and sharpest yet from Palm. (The sharpness comes from its compact size, not increased resolution—Palm is still only shipping devices with 160x160-pixel resolution.) The \$279 m130 also boasts a built-in rechargeable battery. Other specs are similar to the m125: Palm OS 4.x, 8MB of RAM, and both an SD card slot and the new Universal Connector HotSync port.

Also new is the m515, which replaces the controversial (due to its dim screen lighting) m505 in Palm's lineup. This new \$399 model is externally identical to the m505, but it doubles the internal memory to 16 megabytes. It also boasts a new, adjustable screen backlight with three settings: off, low (identical to the m505), and bright (at least twice as bright as m505). You can use the low setting when you want to maximize battery life, and crank the brightness up to high when you know you'll be returning the device to its charging cradle long before the battery runs dry.

Both devices will include Palm's usual impressive software bundle, which boasts Documents to Go 4.0, MGI PhotoSuite, Palm Reader, and a number of other useful starter applications.

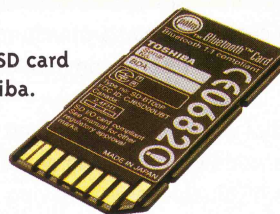
Palm is also shipping its new \$120 Bluetooth SD card. This tiny card, one of the first shipping devices based on the new SDIO standard, adds the ability to wirelessly communicate with Bluetooth phones and other peripherals. We'll have hands-on reviews of all three products in our next issue.



Palm's new m130 is a compact, color handheld with removable faceplates and an SD card slot.



Compared to the m505, the m515 sports double the memory and a brighter screen.



Palm's tiny Bluetooth SD card was designed by Toshiba.

BLURBS

Handheld Computing Developer. If you're developing Palm OS software or hardware, or you'd like to start, you'll want to be sure to check out this new electronic newsletter which will be chock full of useful information ranging from programming techniques, insuring compatibility with new Palm OS releases, and development tool reviews to marketing tips and comparisons of software distribution channels. Watch www.hhcmag.com for signup information.

Email with Attachments

Corsoft has announced that the latest version of its Aileron email program will allow WordSmith, QuickOffice, and Documents to Go users to receive desktop Office files as email attachments in handheld format. Files are translated from Excel and Word formats to appropriate handheld versions en-route to your PDA. The Aileron email service costs \$30 per year. For more information, see www.corsoft.com.

Documents To Go Enhanced

DataViz has added even more capabilities to its Documents to Go Bonus Add-on Kit. The package now boasts a picture viewer and a charting add-on for Sheet To Go, in addition to the preexisting email application and PDF viewer. See www.dataviz.com for upgrade information.

Errata: Palm Reader Pro Bundle Policy Change

In issue 5.0, we reported that Palm would be offering the Palm Reader Pro ebook reader free of charge to those who purchased new Palm-brand handhelds after December 1. This report was based on a preliminary press release that was supplied to us by Palm Digital Media before the new reader application's release. Unfortunately, between the time *Handheld Computing Magazine* 5.0 went to press and the release of Palm Reader Pro, the company decided not to offer the Pro reader at no charge to new Palm device purchasers after all. We apologize to readers who were disappointed that they were unable to download the new reader for free—the information we provided was what we were told by Palm Digital Media at press time, and the company never contacted us to let us know of the change. Attempts to contact Palm Digital Media for a clarification of this issue had gone unanswered as this issue went to press.

The Palm VII at Ground Zero

by Michael J. Fagel, Ph.D., CEM

Michael J. Fagel worked as an emergency worker at the Ground Zero site from September 12 through December 23 of last year. A Palm VII was a vital tool for him during the rescue operations. He was kind enough to share some of his observations about how the Palm helped during the rescue and recovery operations.

Survival in our field of Emergency Response and Domestic Preparedness depends on communication. I have worked at numerous disaster sites over the last 20 years, as an emergency manager and responder; communication is the key to survival.

This is the first event where I had my Palm VII wireless device with me on site. I used it constantly. My mission was logistics, support and safety at the scene. We worked 18-20 hour tours, and never really stopped much. The days and nights blended together.

The link to the outside world with AOL was a lifesaver to many we worked with. While on the pile, working with the unit, some of the weary rescuers would come over and ask "can you email with that?" I would let them fire off a message or two to help them stay in touch with the outside world. Communications were sporadic at the site, largely due to the catastrophic losses of a tremendous amount of infrastructure. Dial-up circuits were at a premium, cell phones lost a major site, and the need for instant communications was evidenced.

Keeping in touch via AOL mail, I was able to correspond with other emergency response people worldwide. The iSilo database that I used as a reference text was invaluable, as was having the ability to instantly communicate from the field. I used Documents to Go to convert important Microsoft Word documents and Excel spreadsheets to handheld format.

My unit was in constant use, and I went through batteries like candy, but the good thing was that I had the ability to keep up. The removable battery system proved to be better than having to recharge in the field. As we worked the scene, other people with Palms beamed contact data via IR on the site, a very efficient method of data transfer. The amount of reference data and the number of contacts in my Address Book list grew after each meeting. I even had a backup on an m100 in case the VII went down. I also backed up to a laptop as often as I could. The notes, address book contacts, and the reference documents that I had loaded on the handheld



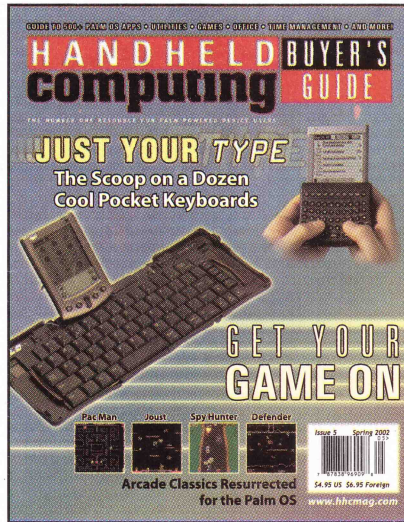
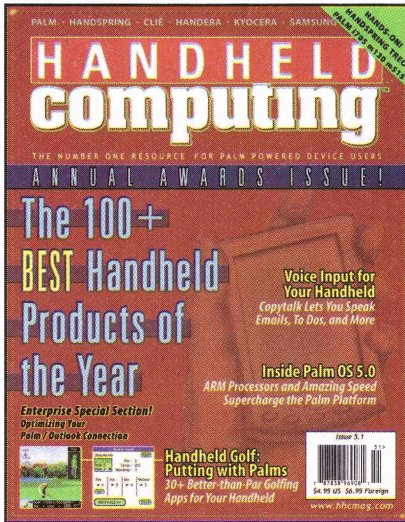
Michael Fagel found the Palm VII an invaluable tool while working at the Ground Zero site.

over the last year proved to be a pocket resource that saved time.

What would make this tool better? More access to the real web, not just clips. Cellular service was sporadic, but Palm.net worked fairly well, although it proved to be very expensive. A package that would allow some pricing flexibility would be nice. Developers, keep those ideas flowing. Let's get more real emergency management data available to handheld users. Let's inspire the developers and hardware makers to develop a "ruggedized" emergency model with integrated wireless capabilities that would make the next mission that much easier to deal with.

The Palm was a "lifeline" in that it allowed me to stay in touch with the outside world. I am going to wait for the next generation, and then set my Palm VII up on the shelf as a reminder of the tools that helped me and others at Ground Zero.

Three great magazines bringing you
all the information you'll need to
get the most out of your Palm device..



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HANDHELD computing™

Best Palm Powered Products of 2001 Awards

On these pages you'll find the Best of the Best, the Palm Powered products that stand out from the crowd. And an impressive crowd it is. With over 14,000 applications available, and dozens of hardware add-ons, it's no wonder Palm Powered handhelds are able to dominate the market despite all the propaganda and "tail fin" features Microsoft throws at them.

While there are thousands of great products available for our favorite platform, these pages highlight the cream of the crop. These are the programs and add-ons that add new capabilities to the platform, make your job easier, or just make you sit back and say "wow!" The choices here are based on spirited debates amongst the Handheld Computing Magazine editorial team (no animals were harmed in the selection of these awards, although a few editors were mildly bruised), as well as on input from our readers. All Palm Powered products released before the end of 2001 were eligible.

Each category highlights a winner, and a pair of finalists as well. Don't think of the finalists as runners-up. These are standout products that are winners in their own right. So, without further ado, we present the Best Palm Powered Products of 2001.

BEST NEW PALM OS DEVICE

WINNER: Clié PEG-N760C

This year saw a virtual flood of new Palm OS handhelds from Palm, Handspring, Handera, and others. But the clear winner was Sony's top-of-the-line handheld, the Clié PEG-N760C. This multimedia handheld (and its Palm OS 3.5-based N710C predecessor) didn't just incrementally improve on the features of its predecessors, it added entirely new capabilities to the platform.

First and foremost is Sony's superb screen, a standard we'd love to see all of the company's competitors adopt. This is quite simply the best handheld screen available, with sharp, finely detailed 320x320-pixel graphics and 65,000 colors. It not only makes images and animations look better, it also allows much sharper text in applications like Palm Reader and WordSmith.

The N760C also ups the audio ante, as the only Palm Powered handheld with built-in support for MP3 music playback. The audio quality is excellent, and with 128MB Memory Stick cards available for well under \$100, it's a snap to load your Clié up with plenty of tunes for the road.

Finally, there's the Memory Stick



Clié PEG-N760C

slot, which combined with Palm OS 4.0 makes for fairly painless support of large files and more than 8MB of programs.

Sony gets a mix of kudos and a "no-prize" for making an upgrade to N760C capabilities available to N710C owners. While the \$50 fee isn't unreasonable considering it covers postage, packing, shipping, and labor, how many of us want to be without our handheld for days? Hopefully Sony will offer a "do it yourself" option for future upgrades.

While Sony has other hi-res handhelds, they lack the musical talents of the N760C, making the N760C the clear choice for the best Palm OS device of 2001.

Sony, www.sel.sony.com

FINALIST: Handera 330

The ultimate "upgrade handheld" for those who invested heavily in Palm III add-ons, the Handera 330 takes the familiar Palm III case and packs it with CompactFlash and SD card expansion slots, a hi-res monochrome screen with an innovative "landscape" mode, and an optional rechargeable battery.

Handera, www.handera.com

FINALIST: Palm m125

Palm's best entry-level handheld yet, this stylish pocket-sized device may be inexpensive, but it's not limiting. With Palm OS 4.0, an SD card slot, and the new Universal Connector HotSync expansion support, this is a starter or upgrade handheld that you won't quickly outgrow.

Palm, www.palm.com

BEST ADD-ON

WINNER: SIPIX Pocket Printer A6

The smallest, most convenient portable printer for any Palm device. It's barely larger than the Palm Powered handheld itself, yet it lets you print almost anything on the device (with the right driver). Paired with the right applications (printing support is rather spotty



SiPix Pocket Printer A6

on the Palm platform), it's the perfect companion for handheld road warriors.
SiPix, www.sipix.com

FINALIST: Charge N' Run

This ingenious charger for the Palm III series (Handspring coming soon) lets you install rechargeable batteries and charge your handheld right in the cradle—just like newer handhelds.

Pellico Systems, www.charge-n-run.com

Finalist: PyroPro

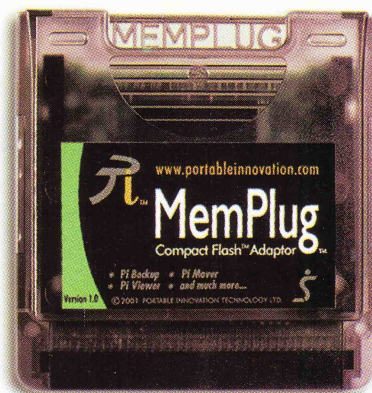
MP3 music playback, voice recording, battery charging and 64MB of extra memory for the Palm V series, all in one compact accessory. At \$199 and up, it's pricey, but it adds real versatility to your current handheld.

Pocket Pyro, www.pocketpyro.com

BEST SPRINGBOARD MODULE

WINNER: MemPlug

The Visor Springboard is easily the most successful handheld expansion technology ever, with well over 70 devices available for the slot. However, due to its design, it's limited to handling 16MB of memory. Or is it? The MemPlug lets you use industry standard memory cards to expand to 128MB or more. It's available in four models, accommodating CompactFlash, SmartMedia, Secure Digital, and SD/MMC cards, so you can get one to match your digital



SiPix Pocket Printer A6

camera or other electronic devices.
Portable Innovation Technology,
www.pitech.com

FINALIST: Parafone

Your contacts are in your Visor—how to get them to your phone? Why not put a phone in your Visor instead? This cordless telephone Springboard works with your home phone lines, and because it transmits on 900MHz frequencies, it won't interfere with wireless networks. There's no easier way to integrate your contact list with a wireline phone.

Arkon Networks, www.myparafone.com

FINALIST: EyeModule 2

This updated digital camera module supports full VGA resolution, and can even shoot mini-movies. It's not a replacement for a real digital camera, but with its compact size, you can keep it at the ready any time.

Handspring, www.handspring.com

BEST COMMUNICATION HARDWARE

WINNER: QCP 6035 Smartphone

While Kyocera's Smartphone isn't the newest combination handheld computer/cellular phone on the market, it's the smartest design. The actual physical keypad beats a touchscreen

when you're dialing a phone manually, the flip cover provides some screen protection, and its speakerphone feature works surprisingly well. The QCC 6035's dual-band CDMA and analog cell phone support means you're almost never without at least basic coverage. The online software is well-integrated with the Palm OS, including Eudora email and web apps built into the handheld's ROM. Although we'd love color and an expansion slot, the impressive pricing deals currently available make even the basic monochrome unit very attractive.

Kyocera Wireless,
www.kyocera-wireless.com



QCP 6035 Smartphone

FINALIST: VisorPhone

The VisorPhone may have never really caught on, and it looks like the Treo will be superseding it, but that doesn't mean you should overlook Handspring's initial foray into cellular communication. At a price of \$99 (free with contract), this combination cell phone and wireless modem is an amazing bargain.

Handspring, www.handspring.com

FINALIST: Wireless LAN Module for Palm Handhelds

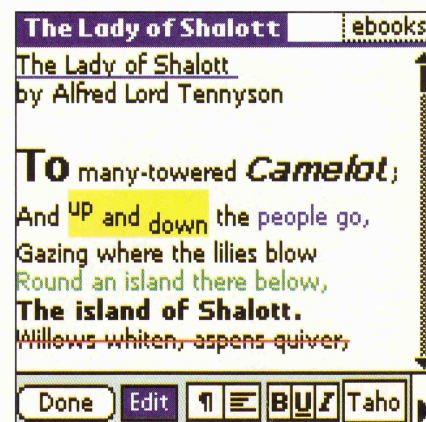
Designed by Xircom (now part of Intel), this sled adds wireless 802.11b network communication to the Palm m125 and m500 series. Good performance and excellent range should make it a favorite tool of network admins; a Springboard version is available as well.

Intel, www.intel.com

BEST DOCUMENT EDITOR/VIEWER

WINNER: Wordsmith 2.1

The first full-blown "word processor" for the Palm OS, WordSmith saw dramatic improvements this year that kept it at the head of the pack. Among these were anti-aliased custom fonts, hi-res support on the Sony Clie, VFS memory support, a thesaurus, and a pokey-but-useful spell checker. Paired with a Stowaway keyboard, it's all most users need to write on the road. And as a bonus, it



Wordsmith 2.1

offers unlimited use as an ebook reader even without registering.

Blue Nomad, www.bluenomad.com

FINALIST: Quickword

QuickWord not only offers excellent integration with Microsoft Word, but also supports HTML files. It features a very easy to use interface, and supports the Handera 330's hi-res display. It's a bargain for those seeking a Word-compatible editor.

Cutting Edge Software, www.cesinc.com

Finalist: Palm Reader Pro

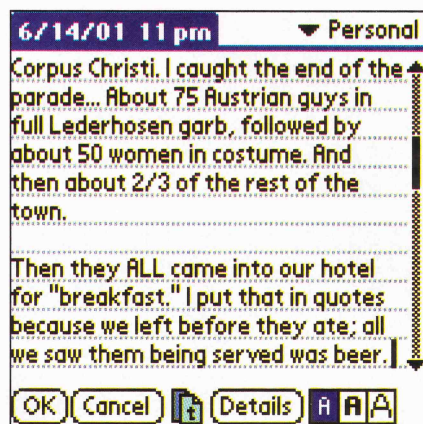
The latest update of Palm Digital Media's ebook reader not only provides access to the company's immense library of popular texts, but it also provides one of the sharpest displays around. And as an added bonus, it doubles as a pocket dictionary.

*Palm Digital Media,
www.peanutpress.com*

BEST PRODUCTIVITY APPLICATION

WINNER: DayNotez

A superb journal application that's equally useful for keeping track of important business-related events throughout the day or just keeping a personal diary. Natara offers a superb Windows version that integrates with the Palm OS DayNotez, or you can also



DayNotez

purchase an Outlook conduit that syncs to its Journal function if you're one of the unfortunate folks cursed with having to use Microsoft's information manager.

Natara Software, www.natara.com

FINALIST: Quik Budget

This budgeting application (from the coauthor of WordSmith) would be impressive enough if it just tracked your personal expenditures in various categories. But when you add its integration with a variety of account manager packages such as UltraSoft Money, Qmate, and SplashMoney, it's doubly useful.

*Quik Sense Software,
www.quiksense.com*

FINALIST: Life Balance

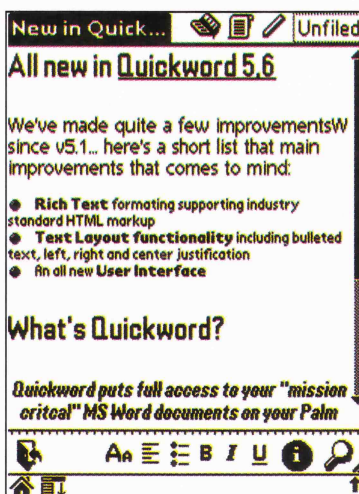
A unique alternative to traditional "to do" lists and project planners, Life Balance lets you reprioritize tasks by category, so you can give proper attention to all aspects of your life, not just work-related "crisis" tasks.

Llamagraphics, www.llamagraphics.com

BEST OFFICE SUITE

WINNER: Quickoffice

This was a tough category to call, with numerous quality entrants. However,



Quickoffice

Quickoffice won out because of the quality, power, stability, and flexibility of its excellent Quicksheet spreadsheet, which brings a surprising amount of the power of Excel to your handheld.

Coupled with word processing finalist Quickword and the excellent Quickchart graphing program, Quickoffice is an amazing value for its price.

Cutting Edge Software, www.cesinc.com

FINALIST: Documents to Go 4.0

What started as a simple viewer for Word and Excel files has grown into a miniature office suite in its own right, with the ability to create files as well. For the full scoop on this winning package, see the next awards.

DataViz, www.dataviz.com

FINALIST: Iambic Office

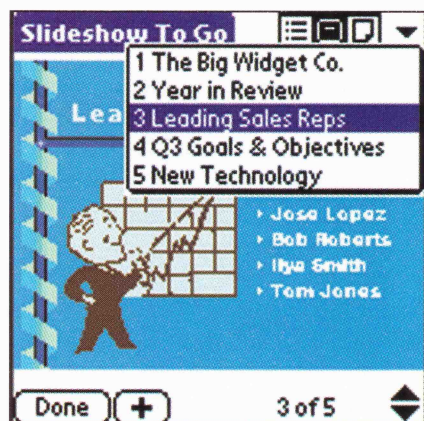
Iambic Office features the excellent TinySheet spreadsheet, the Word-compatible FastWriter word processor, and TinyChart. But what makes it really special is the inclusion of Iambic Mail, which lets you receive Word and Excel files on your handheld and edit them with the Iambic Office applications.

Iambic, www.iambic.com

BEST DESKTOP COMPANION

WINNER: Documents to Go 4.0

Documents to Go goes a step beyond competing handheld office packages by letting you not just create and edit Word and Excel files, but bring along pocket versions of your PowerPoint presentations as well. Documents to Go is the most seamless companion to Office, as it does the best job of not "stripping" information from files that you sync to the handheld. The package's DocSync technology lets you HotSync a document containing advanced features such as images and line drawings, tweak it on the handheld, and restore it to the desktop without losing any info. The Professional version even lets you view



Documents to Go 4.0

and edit Word and Excel email attachments.

DataViz, www.dataviz.com

FINALIST: PocketMirror Professional

This Outlook sync program is far more sophisticated than the versions bundled with Palm Powered handhelds, supporting the synchronization of public folders and subfolders, and sporting sophisticated filtering features. Plus it facilitates syncing two handhelds with the same PIM data.

Chapura, www.chapura.com

FINALIST: UltraSoft Money Pocket Edition

An extremely sophisticated financial manager, UltraSoft Money synchronizes with Microsoft Money. However, it's powerful enough to be used even without a desktop companion. UltraSoft even offers a family discount, so all the members of your household can work together to keep your finances in order.

UltraSoft, www.ultrasoft.com

BEST SPREADSHEET

WINNER: Quicksheet

The spreadsheet contest was a close one, but Quicksheet edged out the competition with its excellent and transparent support of data exchange with Microsoft Excel, its landscape mode support on the

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Quicksheet

Handera 330 and hi-res support on the Clie, and its ability to link to shared XLS files on a network in enterprise environments. What better testament than the fact that it's a better companion to Excel than the version Microsoft wrote for its Pocket PCs?

Cutting Edge Software, www.cesinc.com

FINALIST: TinySheet

Iambic's excellent TinySheet offers 113 functions, hi-res support on the Clie, excellent formatting, and top-notch Excel integration. Stability problems in earlier releases have been addressed, and the latest version gives Quicksheet some serious competition.

Iambic, www.iambic.com

FINALIST: MiniCalc

MiniCalc's name belies its true power. While it runs on small devices, there's nothing "mini" about its feature set. With excellent Excel integration, support for 256x9999 column spreadsheets, and password protection, this may be all the spreadsheet many users need.

Solutions in Hand, solutionsinhand.com

BEST DATABASE

WINNER: thinkDB

Another very close category, thinkDB edged this category with its relational capabilities, superb interface, speedy performance, and excellent Windows desktop companion. In addition, you'll find an amazing wealth of pre-designed thinkDB databases, called tinyBytes, covering topics from construction estimation to logging your comic collection.

thinkingBytes, www.thinkingbytes.com

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Car Maintenance		
Details Payment Notes		
Service Type: Tires		
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thinkDB



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FINALIST: HandDBase

Another excellent database, HandDBase is a superb choice for cross-platform database development. In addition to an Access and ODBC conduits for integration with desktop databases, there's also a Pocket PC version of the app. You'll also find a huge library of predesigned database templates available.

DDH Software, www.ddhsoftware.com

FINALIST: MobileDB3

MobileDB v3.0 offers a wealth of data types, integration with the Date Book, and (with companion utilities) the ability to import Excel or FileMaker information directly into a MobileDB database. And, like the other popular databases, there are numerous predesigned databases available for download.

Handmark, www.handmark.com

BEST DEVELOPMENT TOOL

WINNER: AppForge

Professional Edition for Palm OS

While there's no denying that C and C++ are the languages of choice for stand-alone commercial programs, there's a

non-stop development in the Enterprise and hobbyist markets using good old reliable Visual Basic. AppForge lets you bring Visual Basic apps to the Palm OS, and it does so with amazing aplomb. All the Palm OS functions you'd want are available—controls, menus, and access to system libraries. The package's Universal Conduit makes accessing data in ODBC databases a snap. You can even jazz up apps by converting TrueType fonts and AVI movies to Palm OS format. There's a personal edition for hobbyists on a budget, and a Pocket PC version makes cross-platform development a breeze.

AppForge, www.appforge.com

FINALIST: Codewarrior for Palm OS Platform 8.0

The latest version of the industry-standard development platform for Palm OS applications sports an improved IDE, USB debugging support, and project wizards to simplify creation of new apps. Plus, you can now program in C++ without experiencing code penalties.

Metrowerks, www.metrowerks.com

FINALIST: Satellite Forms

Long a popular Rapid Application Development tool for the Palm OS, Satellite Forms lets you easily design form-based apps, add advanced API functions, and even integrate C-based plug-ins. A server-side companion makes it easy to distribute custom enterprise databases.

Pumatech, www.pumatech.com

BEST ENTERPRISE APPLICATION — GENERAL



Presenter-to-Go

WINNER: Presenter-to-Go

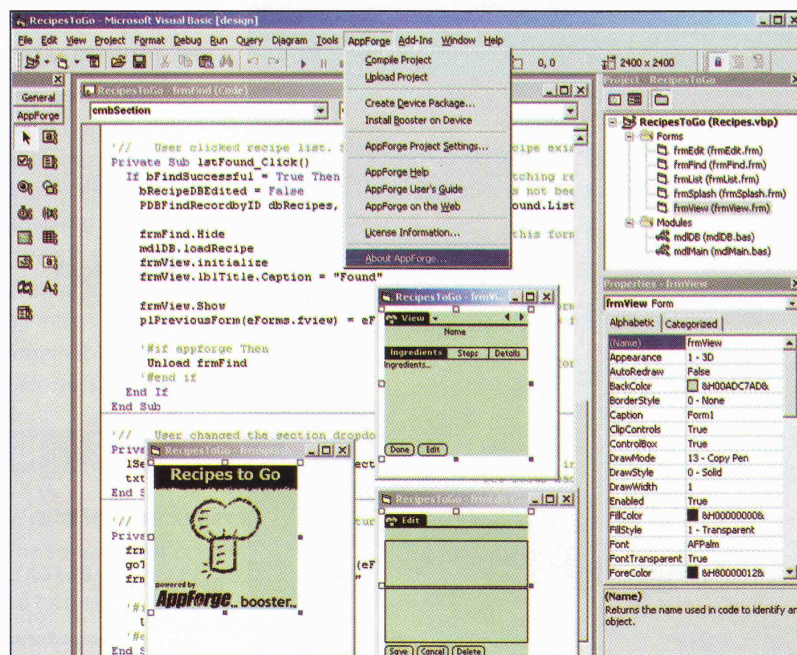
Tired of hauling around 12 pounds of laptop equipment every time you need to make a presentation? Presenter-to-Go lets you cram your PowerPoint presentations into your Handspring Visor. Just attach this Springboard module to a projector and you're ready to go. The latest software update even includes the ability to display the native Palm OS screen on a projector, perfect for showing off your custom Palm apps.

Margi, www.margi.com

FINALIST:

Soloist 2 Wireless POS Terminal

You'd almost not recognize the Handspring Visor hiding inside the Symphony Soloist. This hardware add-on enhances the Visor with a credit-card scanner, a receipt printer, and a wireless CDPD modem. There's even an optional Smart Card reader. And since it runs the



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Palm OS, you can easily add custom functionality not possible with standard credit card processing units.
Symphony, Inc., www.soloist.com

FINALIST: WeSync

This free web syncing service sponsored by Palm is still the only way to see team calendars side-by-side on your handheld. That makes it an absolutely essential tool for managing a group.
WeSync, www.wesync.com

BEST ENTERPRISE APPLICATION — DATABASE

WINNER: Satellite Forms

Satellite Forms is so versatile that it's not only used as a database, but also as a Rapid Application Development tool. This means you can design stand-alone database apps for users that look and work as well as apps developed in a high-level language. The Satellite Forms Server application lets your Palm apps connect to enterprise database information via a PC sync or web-based management tools. Your apps can access ODBC databases, and can sync

via wireless, wireline, or direct network connections.

Pumatech, www.pumatech.com

FINALIST: Marietta PDE

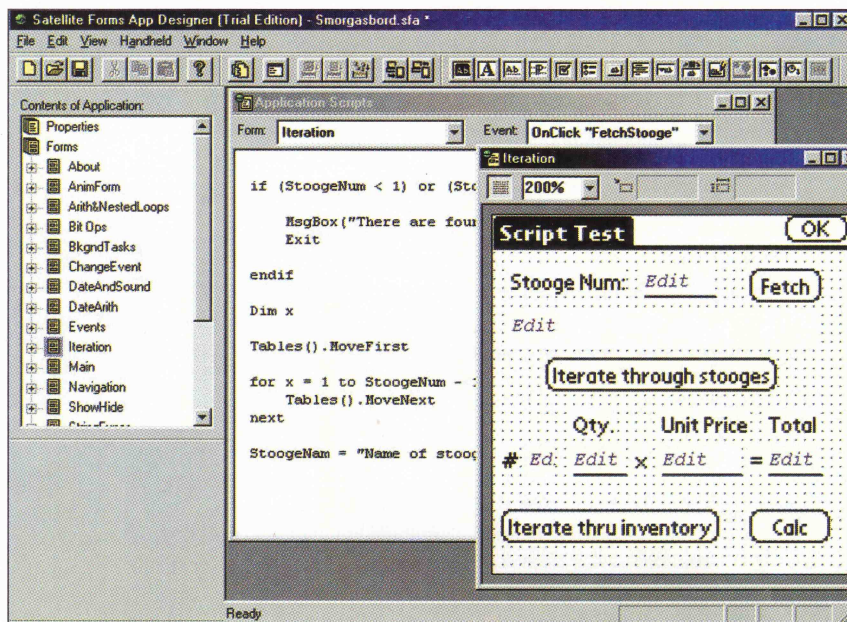
Marietta PDE is a high-end database designed around the "Zen of Palm" philosophy, allowing you to build powerful database applications with minimal effort. Its Design Wizard lets you create databases ranging from inventory logs to customer surveys, with no programming necessary.

Marietta Systems, www.mariettasystems.com

FINALIST: Pendragon Forms

Easily create custom handheld database applications and sync them on a PC, or via a network or the Internet. You can back up important data to expansion cards using Pendragon Forms' VFS support. And while you can create apps without programming, an SQL-like scripting language lets you add more sophisticated features to your database apps.

Pendragon Software, www.pendragon-software.com

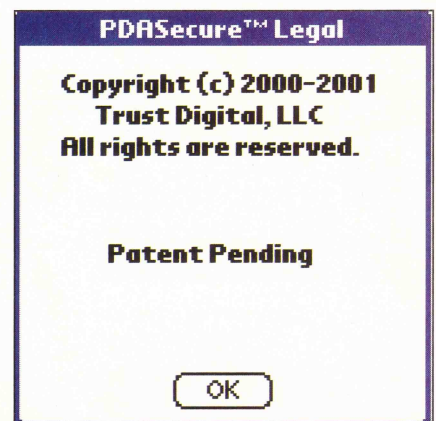


Satellite Forms

BEST ENTERPRISE APPLICATION — SECURITY

WINNER: PDA Secure

The Palm is about as secure as a YMCA locker, which can spell disaster for organizations with sensitive mobile data. PDA Secure solves that problem by allowing administrators to selectively password protect key applications on the Palm with one or more passwords and powerful encryption algorithms including RC4, Twofish, Blowfish, and XOR.
Trust Digital, www.trustedigital.com



PDA Secure

FINALIST: Teal Lock

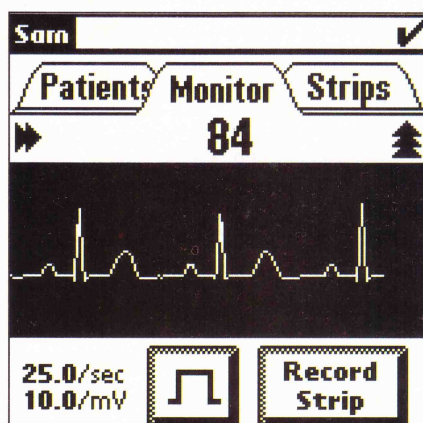
This robust security tool is popular with administrators thanks to multi-user installations, security policies that can enforce lockouts, expirable-passwords, and the ability to unlock devices remotely.

TealPoint Software, www.tealpoint.com

BEST ENTERPRISE APPLICATION — MEDICAL

WINNER: Active ECG

The first FDA-approved Palm device, Active ECG is busy saving lives as an inexpensive, fully-portable, real-time handheld cardiac monitor. Already in use in nursing homes, home health care, and emergency medicine, medical



Active ECG

professionals swear by Active ECG's ability to perform 80% of the functions of an in-office ECG machine. It's a perfect example of the marriage of handhelds and medicine.

Active Corporation,
www.activecenter.com

FINALIST: ePocrates

Electronic reference books are nothing new for doctors, but ePocrates is a quantum leap forward. ePocrates Rx is a drug information database that lets physicians evaluate the interactions of up to 30 drugs simultaneously. It integrates with ePocrates ID, an infectious disease reference that includes data on 400 bugs and 400 different drugs. Not only does ePocrates check for Internet updates at each HotSync, but it is even free. ePocrates, www.epocrates.com

BEST ENTERPRISE APPLICATION — CRM

WINNER: Siebel 7 Sales Handheld for Palm OS

Siebel Sales is one of the most powerful and popular CRM solutions available today, and Siebel 7 Sales Handheld delivers mission-critical information directly to the mobile sales force via Palm devices. Version 7 allows Palm devices to directly and wirelessly access



Siebel 7 Sales Handheld for Palm OS

a broad array of back-end data such as accounts, calendars, contacts, employees, expenses, and price lists.

Siebel, www.siebel.com

BEST FREWARE APPLICATION

WINNER: Eudora Internet Suite 2.1

Eudora Internet Suite offers a full-featured email application, as well as a text-based web browser. While the web browser may seem limited at first, the lack of graphics support means pages come down quite quickly on wireless connections. Both the email and web apps support SSL and TLS standards to keep your data secure. There's even a free app for syncing email with desktop programs like Outlook Express, Netscape, and Eudora.

Qualcomm, www.eudora.com



Eudora Internet Suite 2.1

FINALIST: HandyShopper 2.1

We got tons of reader nominations for this list-management database. Track shopping and other lists, beam them to others. You can track product locations (great for those spouses who can never find the stuff they don't typically buy themselves), prices at various stores, and more. There's even a "no-stylus" mode for one-handed use while shopping.

Christopher Antos,
www.palmgear.com/software/showsoftware.cfm?prodID=5314

FINALIST:

Simply Install - Pilot Install 3.3

Want to install applications without having to go through the entire HotSync process? This app will do just that. It also lets you install pictures on your handheld—they become stand-alone applications, with no viewer required.

envi.con, www.envicon.de

BEST IMAGE OR ANIMATION VIEWER

WINNER: SplashPhoto

This inexpensive picture viewer supports external memory, everything from 4-bit grayscale to 16-bit color, categories, a slideshow mode, and image beaming. The desktop conversion application is easy to use, and does a superb job of shrinking images to Palm size without losing clarity. SplashData, www.splashdata.com



SplashPhoto

FINALIST: TealMovie

While we still think handheld movie players have a ways to go before they become truly useful, TealMovie does a better job with current-generation hardware than we'd thought possible. This movie player not only supports fast frame-rates for films converted from your desktop computer, but also plays coherent sound even from the worst Palm speakers.

TealPoint Software, www.tealpoint.com

FINALIST: ACDSee Mobile

A good image viewer in its own right, what makes ACDSee Mobile special is its integration with the desktop viewer of the same name. If you use ACDSee to manage your images, you'll find the Mobile version makes moving images to your handheld a snap.

ACD Systems, www.acdsystems.com

BEST GRAFFITI ENHANCEMENT

WINNER: FitalyStamp 2.0

This Graffiti area overlay lets you tap out text on a tiny keyboard. What makes it special is its unique layout—"FITALY" instead of "QWERTY." The placement of letters means less stylus movement and faster "typing." Also, slide gestures are used for capitals and other special functions, further speeding entry. In contests, FitalyStamp users have managed speeds of up to 80 words per minute.

*Textware Solutions,
www.twosolutions.com*



FitalyStamp 2.0

FINALIST: Silkyboard II

If you're not a Graffiti fan, but you're more comfortable with a traditional QWERTY layout, Silkyboard II is a superb alternative. This keyboard overlay is extremely well designed, and lets you easily revert to Graffiti for special functions.

Novasib, LLC, www.silkyboard.com

FINALIST: TealEcho

TealEcho performs a very simple function—it echoes your Graffiti strokes as you write them. You'll be amazed at how much your accuracy can improve with this visual feedback.

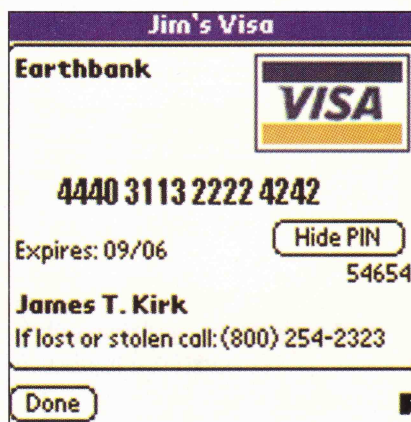
TealPoint, www.tealpoint.com

BEST TRAVEL SOFTWARE

WINNER: eWallet

When you're heading on the road, eWallet lets you store all your important numbers: credit card numbers (and lost-card contact phone numbers), frequent flier numbers, insurance card info, passwords and PINs, and so on. Your data is password-protected and encrypted, so if they steal your handheld instead of your wallet, the thieving scum won't ride the secret number gravy train. A desktop application is included as well, so you can keep your important numbers in two places.

Illium Software, www.illumsoft.com



eWallet

FINALIST: Small Talk

This brilliant translation app is a must if you're visiting a country where you don't have a good command of the language. Choose from dozens of common questions, pass the handheld to the person you're trying to communicate with, and they can choose a response in their own language. Then they pass it back and you read the translation. Simple, and amazingly useful.

Landware, www.landware.com

FINALIST: WorldMate

An excellent traveling companion, WorldMate features not only world clocks, but also a currency converter (with wireless online update capability), weather forecasts for 75 major world cities, and converters not just for weights and measures but also for clothing sizes.

MobiMate, www.mobimate.com

BEST TRAVEL ACCESSORY

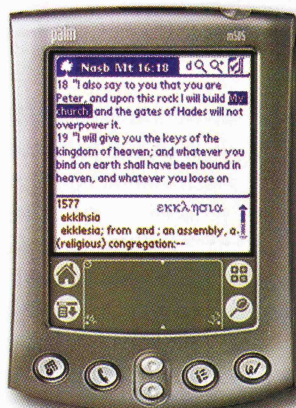
WINNER: Stowaway

Also sold as the Palm Portable Keyboard, this pocket-sized keyboard attaches to your handheld and gives you the ability to enter data with the same speed and comfort as a laptop PC. Team it with a memory backup card and a pocket word processor and you can leave the 10-pound laptop at home. That alone makes it our favorite travel accessory, and in fact our favorite piece of Palm Powered hardware, for the third year running.

Think Outside, www.thinkoutside.com



Stowaway



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— Herb Bethoney, PC Week

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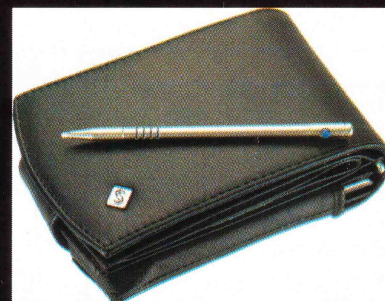
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Slipper 710 - for Sony Clie n710c

Handhelds:

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HandEra 330
Handspring Edge
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Handspring Visors
HP i520 series
HP i540 series
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FINALIST: Instant Power Charger

These pocket-sized emergency chargers are available for most Palm Powered handhelds, and address the major disadvantage of handhelds with rechargeable batteries: what to do when you run out of juice on the road? With cartridges available at locations ranging from CompUSA to 7-Eleven, this is the best road warrior safety net since the AAA battery.

*Electric Fuel Corp.,
www.instant-power.com*

FINALIST: Magellan GPS Companion Springboard

This Springboard-based Global Positioning System receiver offers excellent performance, and because it supports the NMEA standard, it works with dozens of navigation apps in addition to the excellent Marcosoft mapping tools bundled with it.

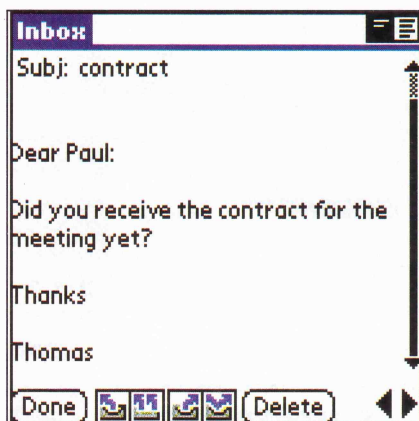
*Thales Navigation,
www.magellangps.com*

BEST EMAIL CLIENT

WINNER: Iambic Mail

Iambic Mail lets you send email directly from your handheld, or via HotSync through a desktop application such as Microsoft Outlook. But what makes this email application particularly appealing is its ability to handle Word and Excel attachments, importing them into Iambic's TinySheet and FastWriter.

iambic, www.iambic.com



Iambic Mail

FINALIST: Eudora Internet Suite

The email app in Eudora Internet Suite is speedy, and it supports multiple email accounts, filtering, and syncing with a variety of desktop email applications in addition to wired and wireless POP3/SMTP support. All this, and it's free! *Qualcomm, www.eudora.com*

FINALIST: MultiMail Pro

With support for virtually all email standards, an open plug-in architecture, and the ability to handle attachments in a wide variety of formats, MultiMail Pro is the most sophisticated email app available for Palm handhelds. Unfortunately, it has stability problems; otherwise, it would probably win the category.

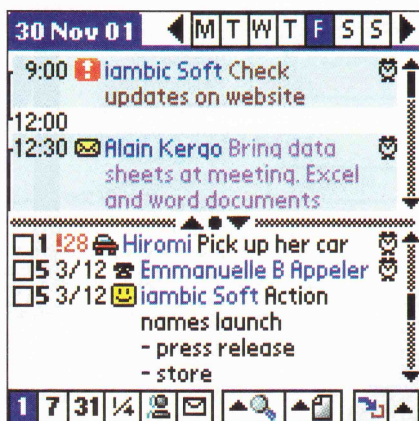
*Palm,
www.palm.com/software/multimail*

BEST REPLACEMENT APPLICATION

WINNER: Action Names 5.0

This contact manager integrates your phone book, to do list, and even ties in with smartphones and the Iambic mail application. Multiple views, hi-res support, color icons for various appointment types, and a contact history feature are just a few of the nicer benefits of this feature-laden application.

iambic, www.iambic.com



Action Names 5.0

FINALIST: ToDo PLUS

Why don't To Do entries have alarms? It doesn't help to give something a "priority 1" when you don't think to check your list until the day after the project's due. ToDo Plus goes much further than the built-in app, adding alarms, repeating tasks, additional views, and even a sketchpad feature. *Hands High Software, www.handshigh.com*

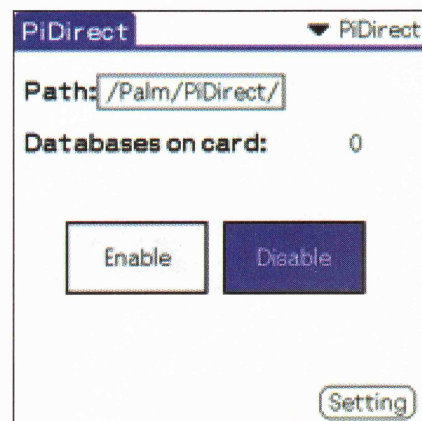
FINALIST: DateBk4

This integrated app acts as a replacement for the Date Book, To Do, and Memo Pad applications. It addresses nearly all the limitations of Date Book, allowing you to schedule appointments past midnight, keep multiple users' schedules on one handheld, and integrate to do tasks with appointments. Not only are there dozens of useful features, but all profits go toward the establishment of a habitat for zoo gorillas in need of help! *Pimlico Software, www.pimlicosoftware.com*

BEST UTILITY

WINNER: PiDirectVFS

The addition of the VFS filesystem in Palm OS 4.0 gave a standard for extra memory, but it's one that only does half the job. Unless apps are written to support VFS, you can't put their data files such as dictionaries and game levels



PiDirectVFS

in extra memory. Enter PiDirectVFS, an oddly named utility that lets you move about 90% of applications (and their data files) successfully to expansion memory cards. There are many utilities that do this, but we've found PiDirectVFS to be the most painless.

*Portable Innovation Technology,
www.pitech.com*

FINALIST: FilePoint

Not your traditional file manager, FilePoint lets you access not just your programs, but also your data files. Create a folder for a project proposal and fill it with WordSmith documents, Quicksheet spreadsheets, and other related data files. If your handheld is packed with data files, FilePoint can help you keep everything organized.

*Bachmann Software,
www.bachmannsoftware.com*

FINALIST: McFile

If you're looking for a standard file manager, for moving and deleting files in main memory and on memory cards, you won't find one more straightforward than McFile. Fast and full-featured, it supports the special features of the Clie and Handera 330, including hi-res and jog dials.

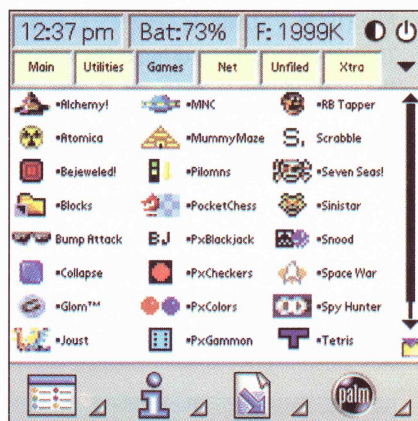
Hiroaki Imazeki, www.jade.dti.ne.jp/~imazeki/palm/McFL/index-e.html

BEST LAUNCHER

WINNER: MegaLauncher (VIP)

This full-featured launcher wins thanks to its amazingly intuitive user interface. With support for hi-res screens, categorizing applications on expansion cards, multiple data views, and quick access to favorite applications, it takes the work out of finding and launching apps on a crowded handheld.

MegaSoft2000, www.megasoft2000.com



MegaLauncher (VIP)

FINALIST: Launcher III

While we like MegaLauncher on hi-res Palm OS devices, for standard-resolution handhelds our favorite is the tab-based Launcher III. It supports apps on expansion cards (including esoteric devices such as the AxxPac Smartmedia adapter for the Palm III), direct launching of hack control panels, and drag-and-drop deletion and beaming of apps.

Benc Software, www.benc.hr

Finalist: SilverScreen

The most attractive launcher replacement for the Palm OS, SilverScreen is also feature-packed. In addition to the usual drag-and-drop functionality, memory card support, and numerous icon themes, this program also offers an innovative "ticker tape" view of your upcoming appointments and tasks.

PocketSensei, www.pocketsensei.com

BEST AUDIO PRODUCT

WINNER: Audible Advisor

This double-duty Springboard not only gives your Visor an additional 16MB of storage, it also lets you play Audible.com audiobooks. The wealth of material available on Audible.com means there's something for everyone—from the latest audiobooks to NPR radio shows to exclusive talk programs by the



Audible Advisor

likes of Robin Williams and Susie Bright. The Audible Advisor is a superb companion for commutes and plane trips. *Audible.com, www.audible.com*

FINALIST: Targus Total Recall Digital Voice Recorder

This voice recorder Springboard lets you use your Visor to file voice recordings—whether they're short personal notes or longer interviews. You can also pop it out of your Visor, plug it into the included battery pack, and use it as a stand-alone device.

Targus, www.targus.com

FINALIST: Sony Audio Adapter

Available in versions for the original Clies and the new slimline models, the PEG-SA500 and PEG-SA10 audio adapters add MP3 playback to these handhelds. Unlike the built-in MP3 feature of the N710C and N760C, you can't do anything else while you listen to music, but it still beats a silent handheld.

Sony, www.sony.com

BEST GAMING HARDWARE



Q-Pad

WINNER: Q-Pad

Currently a difficult add-on to find, the Q-Pad is nevertheless our favorite gaming add-on. This gamepad addresses our biggest complaint about the Sony Clie N-series. That is, despite the fact that the "é" in Clie is supposed to stand for entertainment, the horrible button design makes the device nearly useless for action gaming. This excellent clip-on controller adds a Game Boy-style directional pad and fire buttons, turning the Clie into an excellent game machine. Simple Jet Technology is the North American distributor; it can also be found at www.pdasia.com.

Simple Jet Technology Co., Ltd., e-mail: simplejet@compusmart.ab.ca

FINALIST: Snap 'N Play

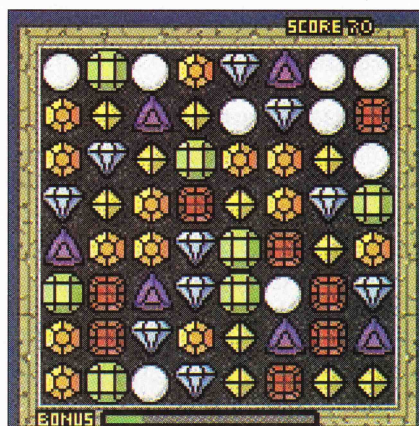
Save the wear and tear on your Visor's buttons with TT-Tec/Riptide Accessories' SnapNPlay. Not only does this gamepad offer a pair of fire buttons, a directional pad, and duplicates of the standard application buttons, it even adds a vibrating "shock" feedback feature. TT Tech, www.tt-tech.com

Finalist: PalmPak Games Card

This tiny little SD card includes some of the best games of 2000, all at a bargain price. With the fast action of Zap!2016, the strategy of SimCity, and classics like Backgammon, slots, and checkers, this thumbnail-sized card packs your Palm with fun.

Palm, www.palm.com

BEST COMMERCIAL GAME



Bejeweled

WINNER (TIE): Bejeweled

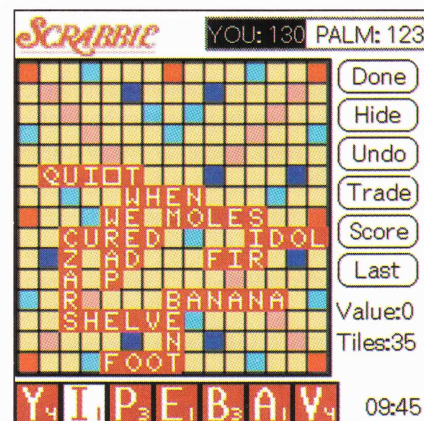
Warning: Bejeweled may cause lost productivity and alienation from family members. This simple color-based puzzle game is amazingly easy to play, yet strangely addictive. The last time a puzzle game hooked us this hard was Tetris, way back in 1989. You must download and try this game—but put in for some vacation time first.

Astraware, www.astraware.com

WINNER (TIE): Scrabble

Handmark has done such an excellent job of moving the game of Scrabble to the handheld that it would be deserving of an award even as a single-player game. Add in the inclusion of the Official Scrabble Player's Dictionary, as well as the ability to play with up to four players on one Palm or via IR beaming, and you have one of the most sophisticated games yet for the Palm OS.

Handmark, www.handmark.com



Scrabble

FINALIST: Kyle's Quest 2

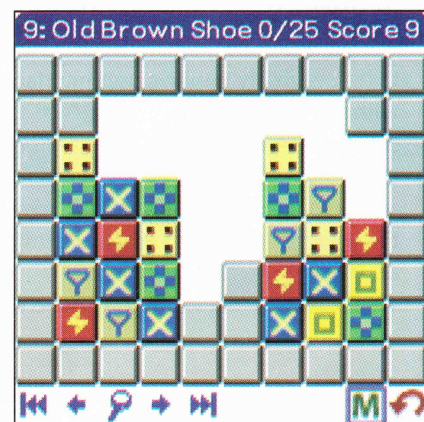
The sequel to the classic Kyle's Quest role-playing game, Kyle's Quest 2 brings color and a number of new features to the game. Its excellence comes not from the built-in levels, though, but from its extensibility—it's actually a game construction kit. The original KQ ended up with dozens of add-on game modules, and we expect the same for this enhanced version.

Crimson Fire Entertainment, www.crimsonfire.com

BEST FREWARE GAME

WINNER: Vexed 2.0

Ranking with Bejeweled for addictive qualities, this puzzle game requires a little more use of logic and planning. It's easy to play, but it can be very difficult to win. The new team that's



Vexed 2.0

taken over its development has enhanced the game with numerous add-on levels at a variety of difficulties, as well as new color tiles and an undo feature that can ease your frustration. *James McComb/The Vexed Project, vexed.sourceforge.net*

FINALIST: Lemmings

This handheld port of the classic Psygnosis puzzle/action game makes you responsible for saving the lives of tiny, suicidal lemmings. It's great fun, fast-paced, and plays well with a stylus. While Ardri seeks a licensing deal with Psygnosis, he's giving the game away for free. Grab it before some lawyer decides to put the kibosh on it. *ardiri.com, www.ardiri.com*

FINALIST: Space War 3.0

A new take on the classic turn-based "Trek" games, this simple but engaging game puts you in command of a starship, battling the Borg, Tholians, Klingons, and other space-nasties.

Mike Read,

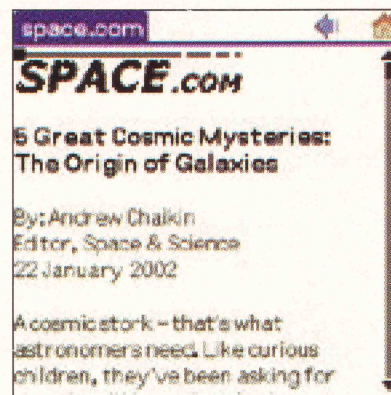
www.palmgear.com/software/showsoftware.cfm?prodID=14707

BEST BROWSER

WINNER: AvantGo

While AvantGo will let you browse the web "live," and the newest release is even optimized for wireless handhelds, the strength of this browser is its ability to download information via your desktop PC for later reading. Before

hitting the road, you can download the latest news, humor from The Onion, and even the latest issue of Handheld Computing Weekly. And all at no charge! *AvantGo, www.avantgo.com*



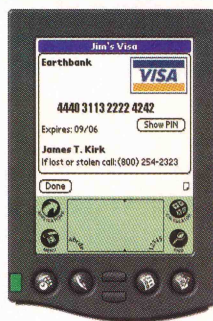
AvantGo

Your Important Info:

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Now available:

**Ilium Software eWallet®
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**The #1 portable electronic wallet program
is now available for your Palm OS Handheld!**

Called "the killer handheld application" by Pen Computing Magazine, eWallet lets you keep your credit cards, passwords, PINs, account numbers and more, safe and convenient.



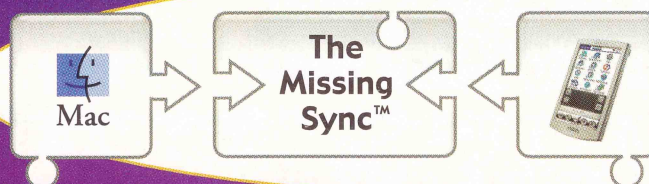
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FINALIST: Handspring Blazer 2.0

Surprisingly powerful for a handheld web browser, Blazer supports 128-bit SSL encryption to keep your data safe on commerce sites, 16-bit color graphics, and WAP and cHTML in addition to standard HTML web sites. If you want to browse sites on your handheld and not miss the graphical info, this is the browser of choice.

Handspring, blazer.handspring.com

FINALIST: Qualcomm EudoraWeb

While EudoraWeb supports encryption and other enhanced features, it ignores web graphics. If you're just looking to find information online as quickly as possible—especially on a wireless connection—EudoraWeb's basic textual browsing will get it for you faster than the competition. Like AvantGo, it's free!

Qualcomm, www.eudora.com

BEST WEB SITE

WINNER: PalmGear.com

PalmGear is not a perfect web site—using its search engine, particularly, can be an exercise in frustration. But problems aside, this is the largest repository of Palm OS software in cyberspace, and it's the place to go if you're looking to do, well, virtually

anything on your handheld. Its performance and look have both dramatically improved since last year.

PalmGear, www.palmgear.com

FINALIST: Brighthand

There are about a dozen regularly updated handheld news sites on the web. While Brighthand doesn't post the sheer quantity of news that some of its competitors do, its articles are professionally written and informative. But the real strength of the site lies in its message boards, which are busy and crowded with helpful (and opinionated) people. It's a fun place to hang out, as long as you avoid the "my platform is better" wars with insecure Pocket PC fans.

Brighthand, www.brighthand.com

FINALIST: Handango

While Handango doesn't offer quite as large a selection as PalmGear, there's still a huge variety of programs available, especially now that Palm has chosen the site as its official third-party software provider. Plus, the site often offers bundle deals on groups of applications.

Handango, www.handango.com

BEST CASE

WINNER: Slipper

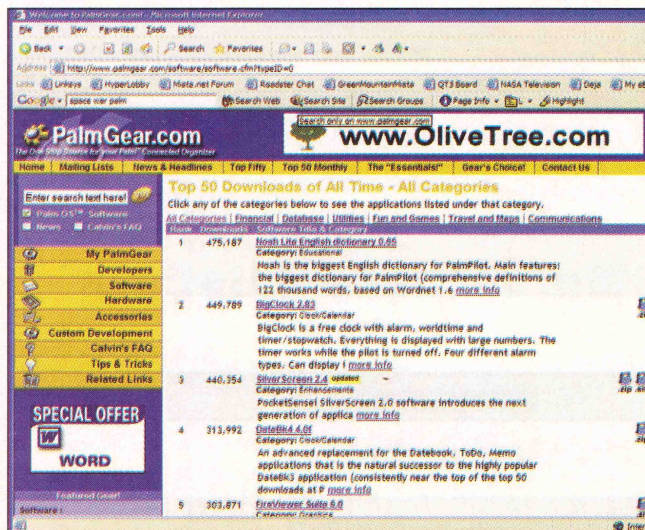
The most popular choice among our contributing writers, the E & B Slipper cases are form-fitting designs that protect your handheld without adding lots of bulk to it. Models for many handhelds include additional features, such as ID holder or even small removable wallets. Also check out the Copilot Cell case for the Kyocera 6035, which holds the phone horizontally to keep it from getting in your way when you sit down in your car.

E & B Company, www.ebcases.com

FINALIST: Scribble Chameleon

Want real protection for your handheld? The Scribble Chameleon hardcase provides a tough ABS plastic shell and a padded interior. A Chameleon-encased Palm was dropped from an ultralight aircraft and survived unharmed, a testament to its protective qualities.

Scribble, www.scribblepda.com



PalmGear.com



Slipper Case

FINALIST: Personality Pack

This stylish plastic combo adds a protective clip-on flip cover and stylus holder to the Palm V/Vx or m505. It's attractive and protective, and looks good enough to be a factory option. Best of all, it adds less bulk than the cover included with your handheld.

Parallel Design, www.paralldesign.com

BEST E-BOOK PUBLISHER

WINNER: Palm Digital Media

The quality and selection of electronic books available at Palm Digital Media's site is amazing. The site features everything from the latest science fiction novels to business how-tos to a variety of magazines, all downloadable and readable on your handheld. Best of all, prices have started coming down a bit, with discounts on most books bringing them in a bit cheaper than the bookstore versions.

*Palm Digital Media,
www.peanutpress.com*

FINALIST: Fictionwise

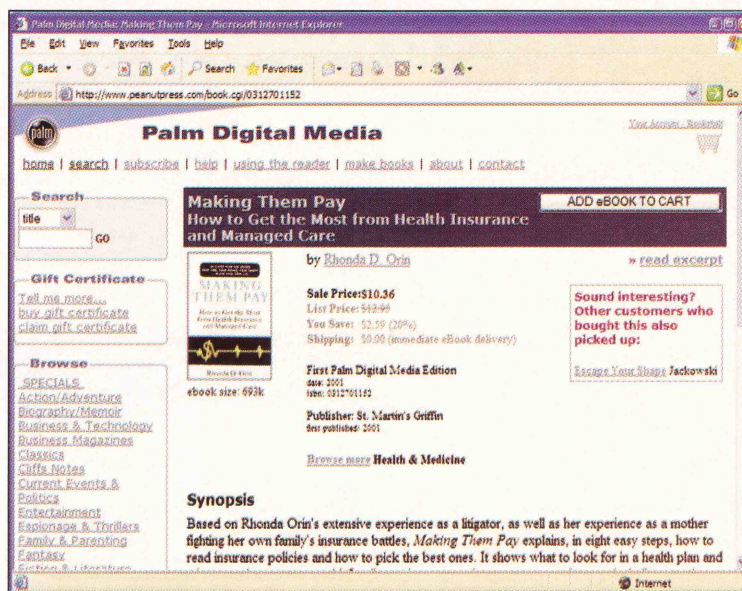
Last year Fictionwise was the place to go to download science fiction short stories. This year the site offers even more variety, with full-blown novels, and the addition of mystery, romance, and horror lines. Best of all, the ebooks are in standard Doc format, so you can use the reader of your choice.

Fictionwise, www.fictionwise.com

FINALIST: Memoware

With a growing collection of Palm-formatted texts already numbering in the thousands, MemoWare is the place to find everything from legal documents to mystery novels to Shakespeare's sonnets. If you're looking for the classics, there's enough high-quality, free public-domain literature here to keep even the most avid readers amused for months on end.

MemoWare, www.memoware.com



Palm Digital Media

MOST UNUSUAL APPLICATION

WINNER: Mirror+ 1.2

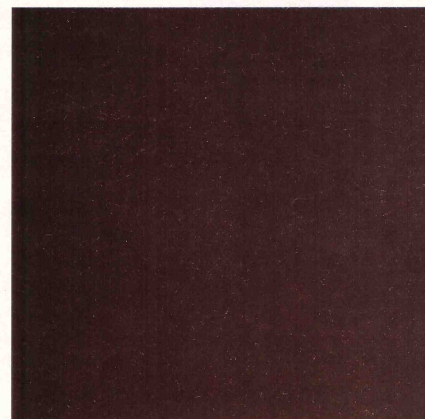
This amazing application consistently gets five-star ratings on sites like PalmGear.com. What does it do? It turns your handheld's screen black, so you can use it as a mirror. Or for those power-failure situations, it can turn on the backlight and let your handheld double as a flashlight. Silly, surprisingly useful, and free.

*James Niemasik,
www.palmgear.com/software/showsoftware.cfm?prodID=9567*

FINALIST: Weecky Dance

Press your Palm's keys in rhythm to make an onscreen bikini-clad girl dance. Sound weird? Perhaps you'll understand better after reading the company's official description of the game: "Saturday night at the Weecky Weecky Night Club, atmosphere is at his peak, can you stand the heat? You must press keys in rythm to lit the babe heart. How long could you stand that pression?" Or, perhaps not. Weird, and amusing.

LudiGames, www.s-pack.com



Mirror+ 1.2

FINALIST: McRazor 3.0

We've never seen so much effort put into a program that does so little. This app purports to turn your handheld into an electric razor. And you know what? It's detailed enough that you might just convince others that it works. It even vibrates the handheld on devices like the Palm m505 that have vibrating alarm functions. Fun, and totally useless.

*Mike McCollister,
mikemccollister.com/palm/*

MOST UNUSUAL HARDWARE ADD-ON

WINNER:

Raycom Personal Massager

It sounds totally goofy—a personal massager for the Visor. But this Springboard isn't a joke like McRazor. It actually uses Electronic Muscle Stimulation to massage your tense, aching muscles. The Visor controls the various massage modes and intensities, and Raynet even promises future downloadable add-ons.

Raynet Technologies,
www.raynet-tech.com



Raycom Personal Massager

FINALIST:

24x7 PowerNapping Module

This odd little module is designed to let you "power-nap" the NASA way, getting quick bouts of shuteye without falling into hard-to-wake-up-from REM sleep. Hey, it's weird, but if you're in trucking or another profession where you need to reenergize in a short time, it could prove useful. Or if you're in to taking catnaps in your cube when nobody's looking, this module can at least keep you from hitting that embarrassing snoring stage.

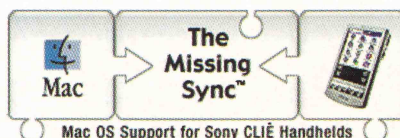
JETLOG Corp., www.jetlog24x7.com

FINALIST: SkyGolf GPS

Until they invent robot caddies to help you choose the perfect club, the SkyGolf GPS is the next best solution. This module for the Visor and Palm V uses GPS technology to tell you just how far you are from the pin.

SkyHawke Technologies,
www.skygolfgps.com

SPECIAL AWARD FOR MAC SUPPORT



Missing Sync

WINNER:

Mark/Space, for Missing Sync

Sony forgot Mac users when it designed the Clié, but Mark/Space didn't. This set of drivers not only lets you sync all Clié models to USB equipped Macs, it also lets you mount your Memory Stick as a Desktop-accessible drive and sync your handheld's time with the Mac.

Mark/Space Softworks,
www.markspace.com

SPECIAL AWARD FOR COMMUNICATIONS ENABLEMENT

WINNER: SupplyNet

SupplyNet offers cellular cables for virtually every major combination of handheld and cell phone. If you have a CDMA or GSM cellular phone and digital data service is available in your area, a cable from SupplyNet can turn your cell phone into a wireless modem for your handheld. Kudos to the company for supporting all the major models from Palm, Handspring, and Sony.

SupplyNet, www.thesupplynet.com



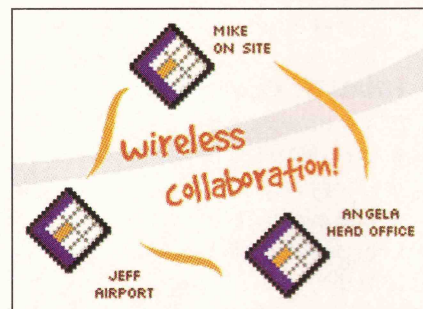
SupplyNet

SPECIAL AWARD FOR WIRELESS INNOVATION

WINNER: Cutting Edge Software, for Quickoffice Conference

While lots of companies talk about the potential of wireless, Cutting Edge Software has developed one of the first intriguing, useful, and unique applications for handheld wireless technology. With QuickOffice Conference, enterprise handheld users can use technologies like 802.11b wireless to work collaboratively on the same documents. Make a change to a spreadsheet and not only will everyone at the conference table see the results, but so will Don in Florida, Dennis in Oregon, and even Carol in Bermuda.

Cutting Edge Software, www.cesinc.com



Quickoffice Conference



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Access all the data you need to work - and play—from one convenient place: Kyocera's smartphone. As you'd expect from Kyocera, this technology-packed device is far more than just a phone. In fact, Kyocera's smartphone integrates a Palm™ handheld, a digital phone and a wireless modem into one compact package.

► Other Great Prizes

5 of each will be given away

► Cutting Edge Software - QuickOffice

www.quickoffice.com

Free your Office files from the desktop - Quickoffice.

► Copytalk - Talk. Sync. View.

www.copytalk.com/hhcontest

Call Copytalk to send email and create Palm™ handheld entries!

► Textware Solutions - Fitaly Stamp

www.fitaly.com

FitalyStamp - 50 Words Per Minute on Your Palm.

► Nitelze Stand-Up Universal PDA Holster

www.niteize.com

Designed to carry a PDA, stylus, credit cards, and more!

► Palm OS Training Video

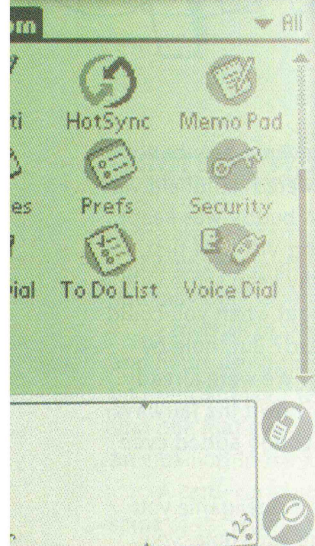
www.palmostrainingvideo.com

Great training tool! For novices and experts alike.

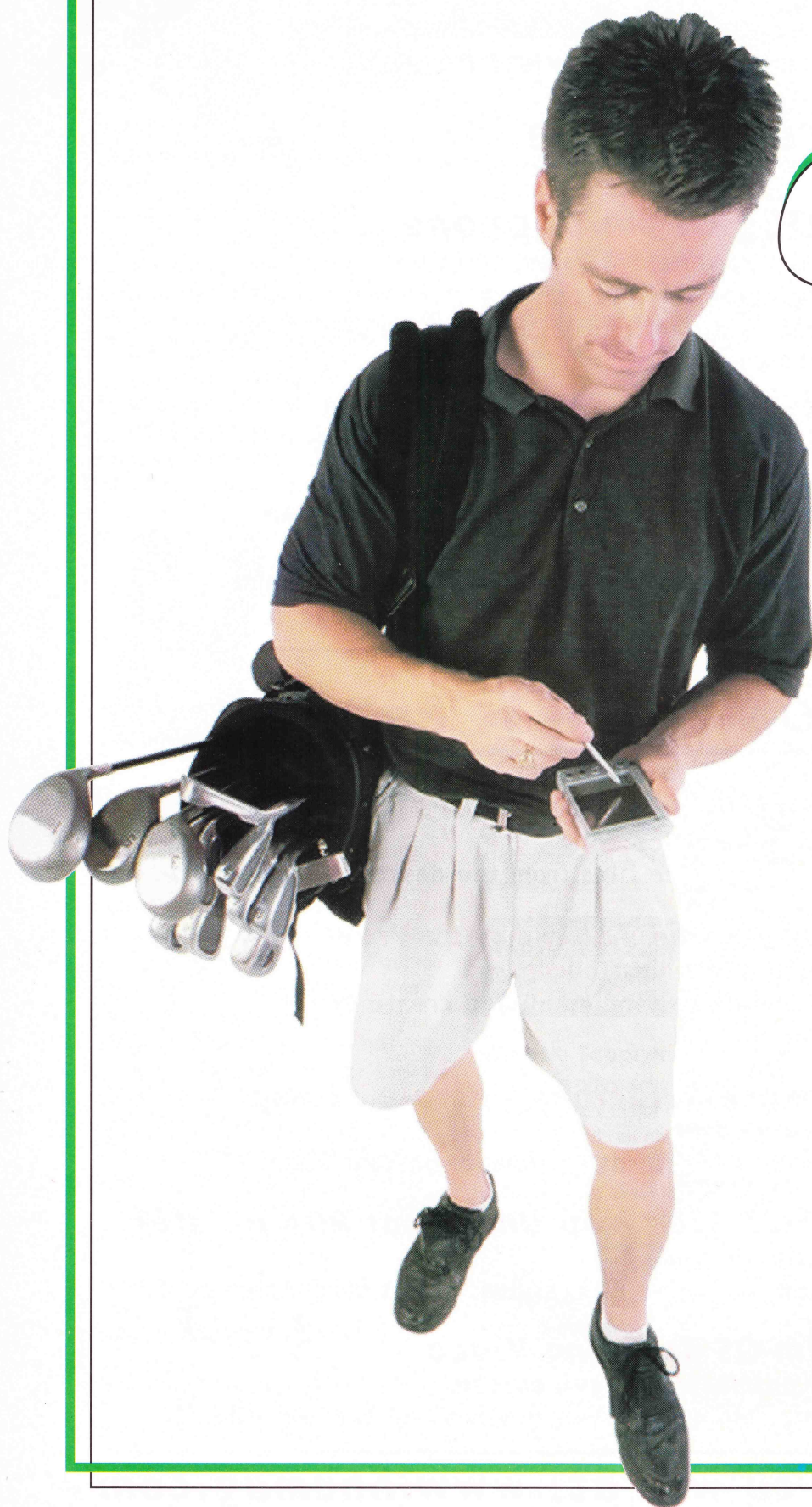
► Enter to win at: www.hhcmag.com

Hurry!
Contest ends
4/20/02!

KYOCERA Smartphone



QCP 6035



Chip

by Rhett Anderson

The first time I discovered how badly I wanted a Palm Powered handheld was on a golf course. A buddy was keeping score on his HandSpring Visor. At first, I thought it was overkill—why keep score with a multi-hundred dollar gadget when you could use a pencil and a scorecard? But, hole by hole, I warmed to the idea. We were already enjoying hacking our way down the fairways, but playing Bingo Bango Bongo added even more fun to the game.

Bingo Bango Bongo is a side-game you play during your round. For each hole, you keep track of who first made it onto the green (bingo!), who was the closest to the pin upon making the green (bango!), and who sunk the ball first (bongo!).

Obviously, Bingo Bango Bongo offers new potential for betting (for quarters, dollars, or beers; please, be careful driving that cart). But it also adds to the fun in a less obvious way—if you're having a bad day, you may at least shine for one hole. In fact, scoring a Bingo, a Bango, and a Bongo all on the same hole almost makes up for putting five balls in the water on the previous hole.

The revelation of Bingo Bango Bongo made me wonder what other great Palm OS applications were available for golfers. Turns out there are quite a few. And there are a lot more sidegames than just Bingo Bango Bongo.

We've divided the world of Palm golf programs into two categories—"scoring applications" and "not scoring applications." The concentration is on the scoring applications, but you'll also find many other golf-related Palm software at the end of the feature.

Shots

Handheld golf applications keep score on the course

Scoring Apps

These are programs that replace your scorecard. Most golfers will probably prefer one that can keep track of a foursome, but you may only be interested in keeping your own score.

I tried all of these scoring programs. In fact, I spent hours and hours using them so you wouldn't have to try them all yourself. But your tastes might be different, of course. If you find one that's almost, but not quite, ideal for you, try sending an email off to the author with your suggestions.

A card-carrying cheapskate, I tried the free ones first. But some of the shareware/commercial products have amazing extras (and, of course, you can always try the commercial products out before you buy them). Considering what you pay for your golfing, equipment, and lessons, why not splurge on one of the \$20-\$40 products? Or, leave a web page address lying around for your significant other to find. They're probably already wondering what to get you for the next holiday.

I learned some lessons while trying out these programs.

1) For a scorecard application, ease of use is paramount.

With a putter slung under my armpit and a tee for the next hole between my teeth, I don't really want to spend time figuring out how to enter a score. Software authors who have bothered to try innovative ways to make it easier for me (using the hardware buttons, or placing large thumb buttons right on the Palm screen) get bonus points.

2) Suppose I leave the scoring app to look something up. Or, suppose I accidentally start the calculator. When I come back to the scoring app, I want it to go back to the precise place I left. Losing my scoring data is an absolute no-no.

There are two types of scorecards. First, all the work can be done on the Palm. But the more expensive options allow you to send your scores up to your PC when you get back to your home or office. Once your scores are there, you can analyze and manipulate the data in myriad interesting ways. I was chiefly interested in the on-the-links half of the equation, and that's what I concentrated on in reviewing the software. If the idea of

the Palm/PC link intrigues you, check out the web sites for the products—they all provide much more information than I can here.

Where possible, we've listed the home pages for all these programs. However, some of these programs are five years old or more, and the web pages have shriveled up and blown away. Some programs (especially the free ones) never have had a home page. But almost all can be found at PalmGear, Handango, and most other Palm software sites on the web.

Also, look for the almost limitless supply of Golf-related documents available for downloading to your Palm, including golf rules, descriptions of courses, PGA schedules, a list of tournaments won by Tiger Woods, and much, much more.








Simple Scorecards

These programs don't rely on HotSyncing to a PC, instead packing all their functionality right in the handheld.

HandMark GolftracPro \$19.99, www.handmark.com

Very large on-screen buttons makes this commercial product one of the easiest to use. You can use the up/down buttons on the handheld to switch from hole to hole. Since you see the information for one hole at a time, the display is logical and easy to read. You can switch to a summary screen any time you want to see a traditional scorecard view.

Seven side games (yes, including Bingo

Hole: 16 Length: 400 Par: 5 Hcp: 16									
Player Score Putts					Total +/-				
John	5	2		%	69	+4			
Bill	4	1		%	70	+5			
Jim	4	2		%	68	+3			
Fred	4	1		%	72	+7			
1	2	3	4	5	6				
7	8	9	0		A				
 Hole: 16 					Games				

GolfTracPro has a terrific user interface. It supports seven side games, with more to come.

Bango Bongo, Skins, and Sandies) are supported so far, with more promised for the next version.. You can even track more than one side game at a time (for those who like to make their betting as complicated as possible). Easy to learn, with a great interface.

GolfPad \$14, 29K, www.digivello.com/products/golfpad/

GolfPad + - Front 9						
Par/Yard	TIM	RET	GER	JON		
1 4 150	34	4	4	1		
2 3 170	7	1	3	2		
3 3 310	2	1	1	1		
4 3 125	1	2	3	2		
5 3 150	3	1	1	2		
6 3 120	2	3	2	2		
7 3 150	2	2	1	2		
8 3 150	1	2	2	1		
9 3 150	1	2	1	2		
Total Par	25	-10	-10	-13		

GolfPad lets you use either the stylus or hardware buttons to keep score.

four horizontal hardware buttons represent one of the four-some. You tap, tap, tap out the score. Use the up and down hardware buttons to move between holes. The only problem here is when you get a little tap-happy and tap past the score you want. Then you have to pull out the stylus, change from plus to minus mode, tap back, and then switch back to normal (plus) mode again. A bit much, but it doesn't happen if you're careful. Too bad there's not just one more hardware button on the Palm.

GolfPad lets you enter hole distance and par for each hole, and lets you enter a handicap for each player.

GolfPad is easy to like. It's very easy to learn to use. Information for nine holes (front or back) is displayed all at once. That makes the screen a bit cramped, but the layout is nice. You want to make sure that your tapping is accurate, so that you don't foul the score of a previous hole.

To solve the problem of stray taps, use the hardware button entry mode. In this mode, each of the

Score Card				
Stonybrook				Quit
Hole 1	Par - 3			
Hole 2	Yards - 223			
Hole 3	Handicap - 3			
Tim	Jon	Jim	Mickey	
6	5	4	5	
adv				
NEXT HOLE >>		Score		

Golf Util has a nice simple user interface, but don't try switching to another application.

Golf Util 3.4

\$10, 50K, www.palmutil.com

This one is beautifully simple to use. Hole by hole, just use the pull-down list for each player to enter the score (capped at 10). The layout is clear. Tap on the Adv (advanced) button to enter more data. Tap on score to see a current summary. It's hard to make an entry mistake. In fact, hard to do anything wrong with

this one. A very minimal, but useful interface, all controlled without the need for any menus. And nice use of color, to boot! You can spend more than \$10 in your sleep. A bargain!

One glitch: If you try to exit this program (on accident or on purpose), you'll be warned that you'll lose your data if you exit. That's better than just letting you exit. But I'd like to see the next version remember where you were when you switched out of the program

The Score Keeper 2.0 \$6.50, 121K, www.winklogic.com

This one has a well-designed, solid user interface. You can put in entire names (not just initials), and data entry is pretty straightforward. But I miss the ability to enter the score from a pull-down list or by tapping. You want to be good at numeric Graffiti, or you'll be pulling up the keyboard over and over. That's a bit of a handicap on the course. I'd like to see the next version offer some flexibility in score entry.

The Score Keeper fails the test of jumping right back to where you were if you exit and re-enter the application. Your buddies are unlikely to have the patience to put up with you while you get back to where you were.

On the plus side, Score Keeper allows you to make notes for each hole. And since Score Keeper remembers your old games in its database, you'll be able to relieve past glories. And, of course, plot revenge.

Golf Buddy 1.0

\$2, 53K, www.palmgear.com

Golf Buddy is fairly easy to get up and running. But it's player-based instead of hole-based. That's great if you're only keeping your own score, but it means that you'll have to click through all four

Course Totals Please Register	
Rhett	F9 B9
Course Total 15 +/- Par -41	
Tim	F9 B9
Course Total 17 +/- Par -39	
Jon	F9 B9
Course Total 21 +/- Par -35	
Gerald	F9 B9
Course Total 19 +/- Par -37	
Back	Calculate Done!

Score Keeper lets you review old games, including notes you made while scoring.

Score Entry		
Name: Rhett	Delete	
Course: Picklehead	Courses	
Date: 12/30/01	Par: 42	
1: 7	2: 5	3: 4
4: 5	5: 6	6: 5
7: 6	8: 3	9: 4
Tot: 45	+/- Par: 3	Calc
New	<	>
Beam..	Players	

Beam scores to fellow golfers with Golf Buddy.

player screens if you're tracking a foursome. While this makes for a fairly clear display, it does tend to bog things down a bit after the hole. It does have beaming capability, though, which is cool if you have golf buddies who also have handhelds. Passes the switching test with no problems.

ForeScore 2.0 Free, 145K, www.palmgear.com

Round Detail 1-9			Sun Hills		
Cancel	Save	Back 9	1/20/2002		
Player>	RMA	Plyr 2	Plyr 3	Plyr 4	
Hl/Pr/Ds	Stk/Pt				
1 4/380	4				
2 4/351	5				
3 3/206	4				
4 4/355	3				
5 5/487	4				
6 3/151	5				
7 4/341	4				
8 3/143	3				
9 5/473	4				

ForeScore is not quite finished. It supports only one player for now.

readme states that only one player can be tracked at a time in this release. And even though the user interface looks as if it could support four players, indeed there's no way to keep score for more than one.

This one has potential. It may be worth keeping your eyes open for the next version. But if you want to keep score for more than one player, ForeScore is currently a bogey.

GolfCard 1.2 Free, 47K, www.handango.com

Course No 1							RMA
Par	T's	Indx			+/-		
1	4	300	1	5	0	+1	
2	4	300	2	5	0	+1	
3	4	300	3	5	0	+1	
4	4	300	4	6	0	+2	
5	4	300	5	5	0	+1	
6	4	300	6	4	0	Even	
7	4	300	7	5	0	+1	
8	4	300	8	4	0	Even	
9	4	300	9	5	0	+1	
36		2700		44	0	8 over	
10:24 am							Front 9 Back 9

GolfCard is a nice all-around scoring application.

info as you please. If you're lazy or in a hurry, just mark the scores, but you can also enter pars, hole distances, and notes. It

Written in AppForge, ForeScore needs the AppForge Booster 2.0 runtime. It seems a bit sluggish. The layout of the screens is nice. Before you get started, there's a fair amount of work to do to set up the players, the courses, and the round. It does a nice job with statistics.

Frankly, though, this program seems unfinished. A note in the

This is a great little scoring app! The screen where you enter scores is organized by player instead of hole, so you do have to perform some stylus work if you're keeping track of scores for more than just yourself. But the interface is easy, featuring list-selection of scores for each hole.

You can add

doesn't feature any form of stylus-free entry, but it's good for the deliberate scorekeeper. It starts out easy and gets easier with each use. When you exit the application (on purpose or accidentally) and come back, you're right where you left off.

GolfScore+ 1.02

Free, home.tiscalinet.be/nouturn/palm/#golfscore

This requires ThinkDB version 2 or higher. This seems like it's only an option if you already have ThinkDB (a \$39.95 program, and a nearly nine megabyte download). I'm not terribly bothered by developers relying on CASL or AppForge, since those have easy-to-install free runtime libraries, but relying on a database program is asking a lot of a simple duffer.

However, ThinkDB is a very popular and useful database for the Palm. If you're a ThinkDB user, GolfScore+ is worth a look. Otherwise, there are easier ways to skin a gopher.

ScoreFore 0.1

Free, 21K, treetopapps.home.att.net/scorefore/scorefore.htm

ScoreFore uses the CASL runtime. Not much of a problem-but installation is not necessarily as easy as with standalone programs. Don't confuse this one with ForeScore, which requires the AppForge Booster library. Got that?

This one has a delightful, clean look. And they don't get any simpler to use and understand than ScoreFore. The user interface is terrific, too, although it does require the stylus.

You can enter the initials simply by clicking on the player number at the top of the screen (or don't—if you're really lazy, just call your golf buddies by their numbers). Simply click where you want to enter the score and click on the number at

Golf Scorer Course 1				
Holes	Players			
: 5 (1)	▼ 5	▼ 4	▼ 5	▼ 4
: 4 (2)	▼ 4	▼ 4	▼ 4	▼ 5
: 4 (3)	▼ 5	▼ 5	▼ 5	▼ 5
: 4 (5)	▼ 6	▼ 5	▼ 5	▼ 5
: 4	▼	▼	▼	▼
: 4	▼	▼	▼	▼
: 4	▼	▼	▼	▼
: 4	▼	▼	▼	▼
: 4	▼	▼	▼	▼
Par (37)	39	40	41	41
Total	20	18	19	19

GolfScore+ is worth a look if you're already a user of the ThinkDB database program.

ScoreFore											
Hole	P1	P2	P3	P4							
1	7	5	8	4							
2	5	8	5	3							
3	5	7	6	4							
4	6	8	6	5							
5	7	6	8	5							
6	5	6	7	6							
7	[0]	0	0	0							
8	0	0	0	0							
9	0	0	0	0							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	↓	T

ScoreFore is clean and easy to use. The perfect scorecard for the lazy golfer.

the bottom of the screen (zero up to a ten-stroke maximum). ScoreFore automatically moves the cursor along, making it perhaps the quickest scoring program at all. But if you make a mistake, you can easily move the brackets and make the fix. Click the up or down arrow button to switch views between the front and back nine. Click on the T button to see totals.

ScoreFore passes the switch in/switch out test with aplomb—you can't even tell you ever left the application. It doesn't get any simpler than this. However, there are no frills at all (except for the thoughtful addition of being able to store the score as a memo for uploading to your PC). No sidegames, no par tracking. It's just a very golf-specific data entry program. This is the perfect scorecard replacement for the lazy.

ScoreFore Free, 30K, www.palmgear.com
Golf Counter isn't quite a scorecard. Think of it as a replacement for a "golf clicker."

Quite up to full scorecard emulation, so I give this one a pass. For the minimalist only.

Golf Counter Free, 30K, www.palmgear.com

Golf Counter Free, 30K, www.palmgear.com

Very nice use of color here, and nice big buttons you can even strike with your thumbs. But the scores aren't broken down hole-by-hole, and it's a one-player deal. So it's a reasonable facsimile of one of those score clickers you keep in your pocket to keep track of your total score. It does excel at that, and there's something to be said for simplicity. Not

ter than a pencil and scorecard. It does remember where you left off if you switch out of it, though. Unfortunately, I was able to crash it pretty easily (just enter a score in the one of the fields where it keeps a running total for each player). The crash didn't cause a loss of data, though. I'd say this one is not quite up to par.

Golf Scoring System 3.2 (Golf Score)

Free, 40K, www.palmgear.com

This was the first scoring card replacement I knew about, and it still holds a special place in my Palm. It's easy to get started—just enter the initials (and the handicap, if you're the serious type) of the golfers and get out on the course! If you want, you can keep course data, but that's optional for the lazy.

Hole 1	Yds:	HCP ▼	Par ▼							
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	X
Strokes										
Putts										
Drove Fairway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Green in Reg	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mulligan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bunker	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bingo (1st on)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bango (closest)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bongo (1st in)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Prev Hole) (Next Hole) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>										

How can Golf Scoring System be free? Great interface. Great features.

Note that the stylus is required, but it's just a matter of tapping on initials and tapping on one of the stroke counts, 0-9, across the top of the screen. For lousy, inexperienced, unlucky, or drunk players, you'll find yourself entering "X" a lot. Apparently, this stands for 10, or maybe for "please X this out of my memory." Those serious about scoring don't believe in an upper limit for the number of strokes—they know there's no limit to how bad a hole can get, and they tend to roll their eyes at this X. But heck, you gotta move along at some point or you'll get kicked off the course.

Though it works beautifully as a simple scorecard, it excels at sidegames. On each hole entry screen, there's a place to mark not only your strokes, but you putts, whether you drove onto the fairway, whether you hit a bunker, Bingo (1st on green), bango (closest to pin), and bongo (1st in), and more. Navigation between holes is simple, and navigation between hole entry and score card summary is easy, too (via the menu or buttons on the screens). This beautifully passes the test of remembering where you were if you left the application. Your needs or desires may differ, but this is the one I'll stick with.

Sample	10/4/2001	Good		
Done				
Par				
Hole	ST	TW	GP	AB
1(4)	3	4	3	3
2(4)	4	3	4	4
3(4)	3	4	4	3
4(5)	4	3	3	3
5(3)	5	4	4	3
6(5)	3	3	3	4
7(4)	4	4	4	3
8(3)	4	3	4	4
9(5)	5	4	3	3
Out	35	32	32	30

GolfFit is simple and straightforward, but a bit sluggish.

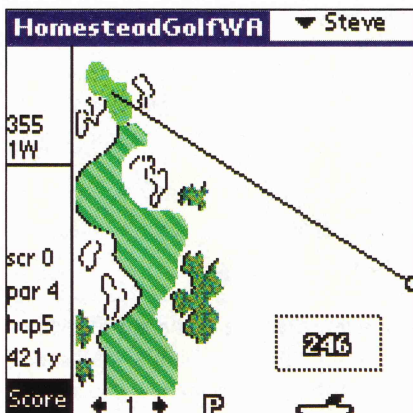
Requires AppForge Booster 2, which seems to eat up a lot of space (380K). The program is nice and simple to use, with a very nice layout. But it seems a bit sluggish and unresponsive. I think a program as simple as this would be better off programmed in C.

This one is very simple and straightforward, but it doesn't really have the punch to make it bet-

Super Scorecards (Palm/PC combos)

These are the programs to check out if you want to keep track of your scores on your desktop computer as well as your handheld.

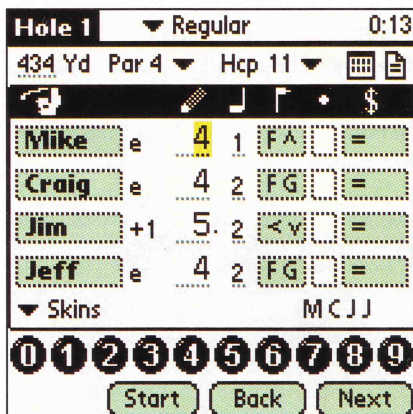
Golfwits \$49.95, www.golfwits.com



Golfwits is a feature-packed scoring program with an interactive map of the course.

A lot more than a simple scorecard program. Golfwits gives you an interactive map of the course and lets you track ball position, figure distances, and more. If you'd rather not take your Palm to the course for the day, you can print Pro Books to take along instead. You can sync the information back into your PC for statistical analysis.

IntelliGolf 5.11 \$29.95-\$39.95, www.intelligolf.com



Side games, thousands of courses, statistics—IntelliGolf has it all.

of color. You can even save your rounds as a web page. This is a terrific program.

An impressive package, with thousands of golf courses included. It has a bunch of fun side games. It has a great user interface for scoring (tap on buttons for scores from 0 to 9). There are lots of informative screens for summaries and statistics, and the interface was immediately clear to me.

Very nice, clean use

ultraCaddie \$29.99,
www.ultracaddie.com

You can tell right from the start that this is a commercial piece of software. It has a full complement of menus (almost like a PC program). It keeps a running clock in the upper right corner (clever idea!). And it lets you do all sorts of fancy stuff. But don't worry—it doesn't have a steep learning curve. However, it does expect you to do a bit of setup. If you want something that you can get started with in 30 seconds, this isn't quite the right one for you. But if you have a few minutes to set things up, this is a powerful package, and very nicely designed. ultraCaddie has no problem passing my "switch-out/switch-in" test.

The Eagle 1.0

\$14.99, 40K, www.palmgear.com

The Eagle bills itself as an analytical tool for golfers. A scorecard for four players, it also lets you track a variety of statistics for all players. It handles club selection as well.

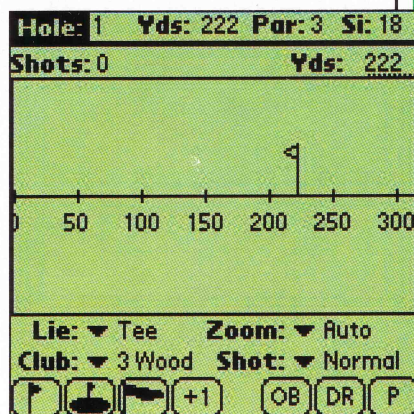
While this is the least expensive of the PC/Palm combos, the installation procedure is not for the faint-of-heart—you will absolutely need to read the readme file. There's a lot of work to getting The Eagle up and running.

Don't expect to just be able to start scoring on your Palm right away. Instead, you have a lot of setup work to do in the desktop application before you can do anything on the Palm.

This is not my cup of tea. But if you are a serious golfer who wants to know a lot about your game, by all means give The Eagle a try.

ultraCaddie										10:30 am
▼ White Hole 2										
Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	out
Par										
Hdep										
tjm	9	4								13
rma	4	2								6
Total tjm:13 rma:6										
Ttl putt	0	0								
Putts:	front		back	0	1	2	3	4	5	
(Stats)	(Bets)	(Club)	6	7	8	9	clear			

ultraCaddie is a commercial product with lots of features, but simple to learn.



The Eagle is a comprehensive package. But installation is tricky business.

Other Helper Apps

These are programs that are designed to help your game, help you calculate your handicap, or provide some other service related to your golf game.

SkyGolf GPS \$399 (includes GPS), www.skygolfgps.com

Wow. Plug this into your Handspring Visor or Palm V series, and you'll be able to find precise distances to targets and hazards. This is for the serious golfer who has everything except his own professional caddie.

Golfware GPS 2.21S \$35 (requires GPS),
www.palmgear.com

Already have a GPS unit for your Palm? Golfware GPS can help you make club selections and tell you how far your tee shot was.

Golf Caddie V22 \$32, www.handango.com

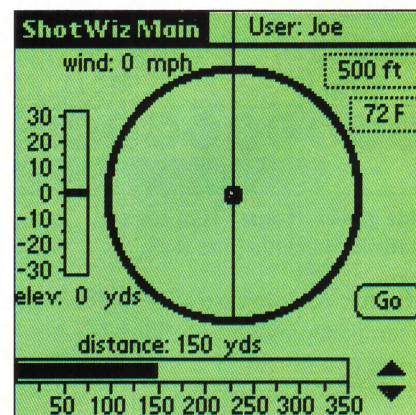
Keep track of your round by tapping your shots on an image of a hole. When you're done, you can upload the information to your PC for shot analysis and statistics. I very nearly classified this program as a scorecard, but ended up deciding that it's a different bird. It's a clever program and it might be right for you.

RoundCharter 1.02 \$29.95,
www.palmgear.com

An amazingly comprehensive shot analysis tool. Enter your shot information as you play and soon you'll build up information about how you shoot that you thought you'd never know. You can even graphically display dispersion patterns for your shots to get a visual idea of how consistent and reliable you are. Includes putting analysis as well.

ShotWiz 1.4 \$19.95, www.shotwiz.com

Uses not just distance, but also an aerodynamic model of the wind to help you choose a club and know how to aim and how hard you should swing. Compensates for wind, altitude, temperature, and elevation change. Nicely presented. This is great for the serious golfer.

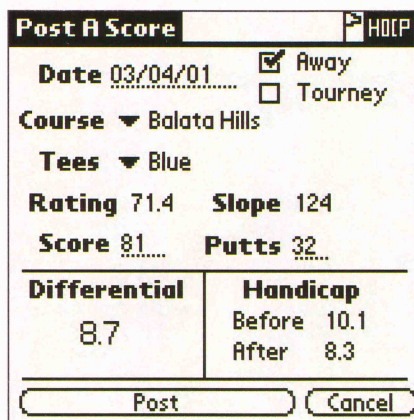


Use science to improve your golfing. ShotWiz uses an aerodynamic model of the wind to improve your game.

KnowAPro \$19.95 each, www.knowapro.com

Choose "Extreme Accuracy with Fred Funk," "On-Course Tips For Every Shot with Tom Purtzer," or "The Fundamentals of Golf with Bill Moretti." All sorts of valuable information, from suggestions for drills to emergency help for tough situations. Expert advice from three great golf pros.

HandiTrack 1.92 \$7, handitrack.homestead.com

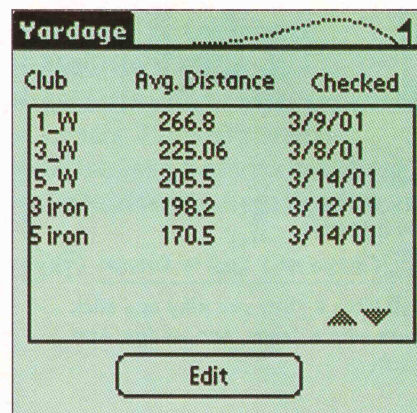


Keep track of your handicap with *HandiTrack*. It even tells you what you need to shoot to lower your handicap.

Do you know how to calculate your handicap? *HandiTrack* makes it easy. Enter your score and course information and *HandiTrack* will do the work. It'll even tell you what score you'll need to shoot for your next round if you want to lower your handicap.

Golf Ranger 1.0

\$5.95, www.digiobjects.com/products/drifan_pp.htm

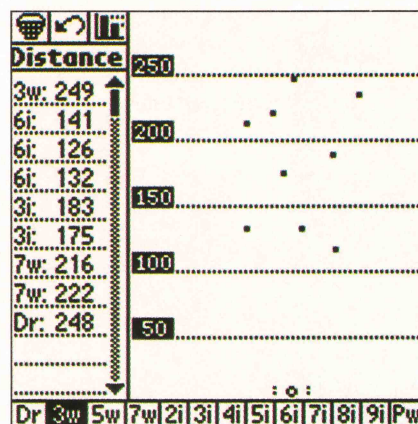


Golf Ranger helps you determine an accurate and reliable average yardage for the clubs you use.

A nice, simple program that helps you work on your shot consistency. Enter the average distance of ten shots with any club on any date. Use the resulting information to know which club to hit and which parts of your game to work on. Next time you can't choose between your 5 and your 6, *Golf Ranger* can help.

Drifan 1.0 \$5.99,

www.digiobjects.com/products/drifan_pp.htm



Take *Drifan* along with you next time you head to the driving range. *Drifan* generates statistics that will give you the edge.

Headed for the driving range? Take *Drifan* along and make your workout more productive. Plot the locations of where your driving range shots dropped and *Drifan* will present a statistical analysis that will help you improve your game.

Easy Golf 1.0 \$5, www.palmgear.com

Keep track of your course information with *Easy Golf*. Lets you store phone numbers, addresses, bookings, equipment, costs, and more. Don't show up at Laurelwood at 9:30 when you were supposed to be at the Country Club at 8:30.

DDGolfTrak 1.3 \$5, www.dnsdurham.com

Track your round history, generate statistics, and calculate your handicap. A nice, simple user interface for entering all the course and round information you need.

BookingZone Free, www.bookingzone.com

Wireless Palm users will appreciate this service which lets you make reservations right from your Palm.

Games

What's that? You can't make it out to the links today? No problem. You can play these games anywhere.

ZioGolf \$9.95, www.ziosoft.com

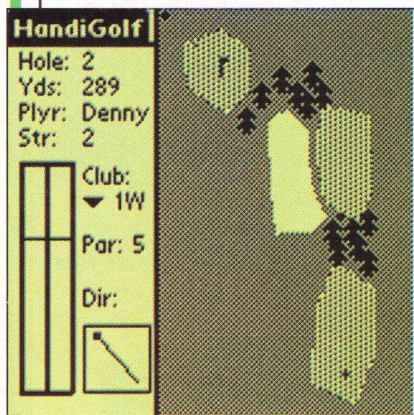


Like the classic PC golf games of yore, ZioGolf is perfect for rainy days.

and the shoot. Control is simple—press a button and hold down until you have the correct strength, then release, when the power indicator falls, click again to try to hit it straight. You can hook and slice. The perfect antidote for a rainy day.

HandiGolf 1.7

\$15, www.reesley.com/handigolf.html



HandiGolf plays like a 1970s arcade golf game. But who says that's not fun?

A very impressive PC-like golf game for the Palm. The color version is gorgeously rendered. Comes with two courses—Sedona and Hidden Valley.

I played this game on both a grayscale Palm and a color Visor, and found it looked great on both. It's a traditional "behind-the-golfer" game. Choose the course, number of players (1-4, and any of them can be computer players), and you're ready to go. Choose a club, aim your stance,

other games, you may still find it fun. The real jewel here is HandiEdit. It's a little dodgy, but with some care you can make your own courses.

4Play 3D Golf Sim & Hole Designer 1.1

\$15, www.palmgear.com

This game's editor lets you place the fairway, rough, and bunkers—even trees and water hazards. This is a lot of fun. It's pretty much like using a paint program. You can even preview the hole in 3D.

ZioGolf is a bit more polished than this game. 4Play is much slower in rendering the views.

And 4Play has an unusual interface. But still, this is a nice-looking 3D game, and the hole designer is a blast. You can even beam the holes you designed to friends and see if they fall for your (sand) traps.

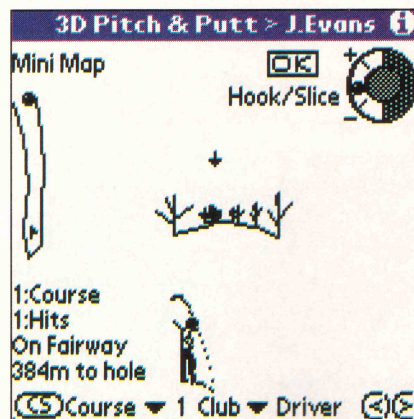


Design and play your own courses with 4Play 3D Golf Sim & Hole Designer.

3D Pitch & Putt \$5, www.palmgear.com

A simplified golf game. Use three clubs—a driver, a wedge, and a putter. A great little diversion for those times when you don't feel like playing a full-blown golfing game.

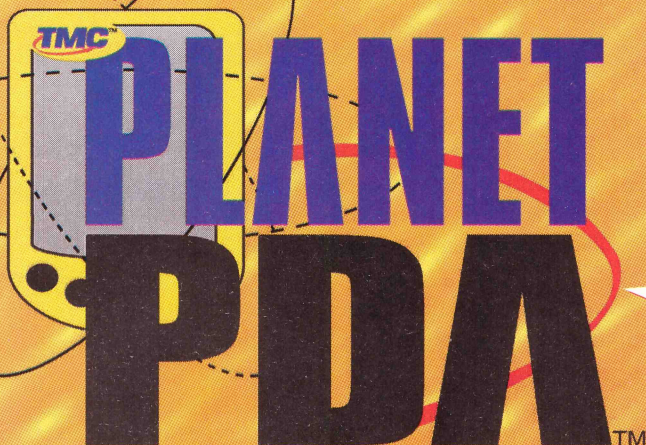
This is a funky little game, and I like it even though I chuckle at it as I play. The interface is minimal. The trees are, well, stick figures. It's sort of Zen. And, hey, it's only \$5. It's by the same guy who wrote 4Play 3D Golf.



In 3D Pitch & Putt, you play as a stick figure with a driver, and wedge, and a putter.

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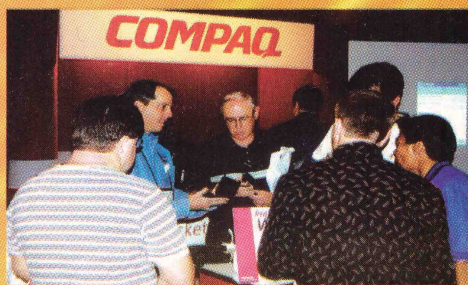


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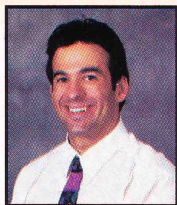


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The mobile workforce is growing every day. Industry research firms predict that by the end of 2005 there will be nearly one billion handheld devices used by enterprise employees. The increased productivity these employees can achieve, extends beyond simple scheduling and e-mail access. Employees can implement remote data access, location-based GPS solutions and other wireless connectivity solutions that are secure and enable access to corporate networks anytime/anywhere.

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Best of all, according to the latest research into the relative cost of ownership of various types of enterprise computer systems, PDAs represent one-fifth the annual cost of a laptop computer; the value they offer in terms of increased productivity and efficiency can be an order of magnitude greater.

You Won't Find An Enterprise PDA Event With More Answers Than Planet PDA!

The conference sessions have been designed to educate corporate executives, IT management and developers on how to increase profitability by utilizing the latest handheld software solutions and accessories. Ultimately, what you learn in the conferences and the Exhibit Hall will allow your organization to be more profitable.

The #1 Show For Testing & Comparing Products & Services!

Once again, the Exhibit Hall at Planet PDA is the only setting exclusively designed to allow you to compare all the latest handheld computing options available from the industry's leading vendors (Palm, Handspring, Compaq, RIM BlackBerry, Hewlett Packard, Siemens, Avaya and Air2Web, just to name a few). The demonstrations on the show floor serve as the perfect complement to the conference program. The schedule has been tailored so that you'll have plenty of time to compare the products and services you discuss in the sessions in real-life settings in the Exhibit Hall.

Now is the time when you must embrace this new technology, and Planet PDA is the place. This crucial event will educate you about the productivity increase your company can realize by implementing a handheld computing strategy in your organization.

We want to be sure that restricted travel budgets don't prevent you from attending this special event. We urge you to register for the Diamond Team Package and send up to 25 people from your company for as little as \$120* per person! Call Bruce Hirsch today at 203-852-6800, ext. 130 to take advantage of this special offer.

See you in Boston!

Sincerely,

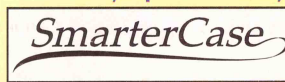
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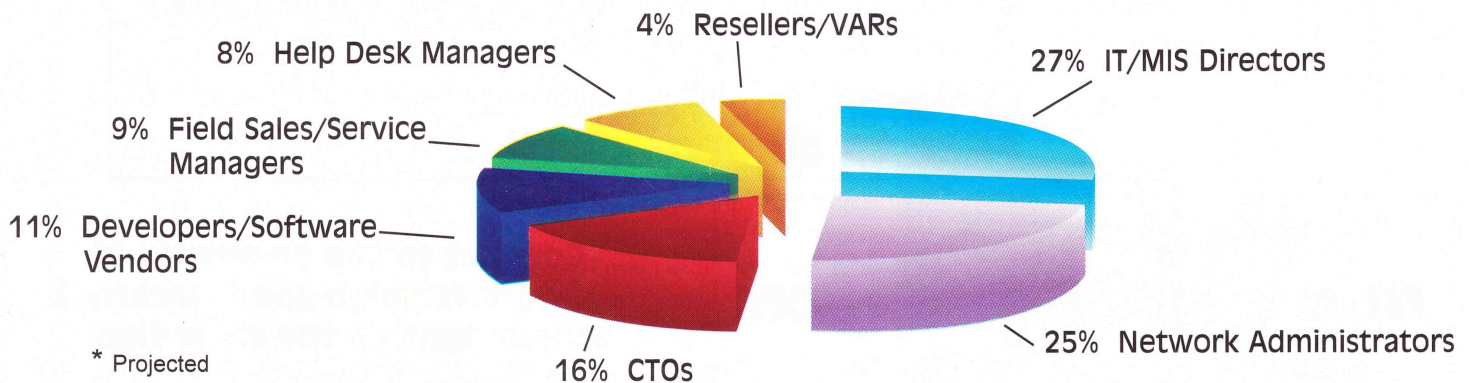
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Find Solutions To Your Biggest Concerns

**If You Answer
YES
To Any Of These
Questions, You
Need To Attend
Planet PDA™**

- Are your employees downloading sensitive databases from ACT!, GoldMine or CRM software, leaving your corporate data vulnerable to theft?
 - Are your network servers more secure than the databases your employees are carrying on their handheld devices?
 - Are your employees syncing PDAs in-house and with multiple databases outside your network, potentially corrupting your precious corporate data?
 - Are your employees wasting valuable time troubleshooting problems on their PDAs because your MIS department is not able to support them?
-
- Do you need ROI data to cost justify your PDA deployment proposal?
 - Are your employees running applications that offer maximum efficiency?
 - Do employees sync their handhelds using desktop PCs?
 - Will PDAs ever be used at your company?

Attendee Demographics*



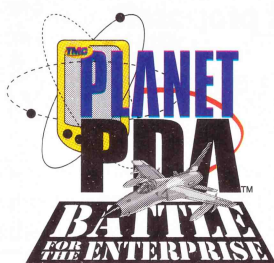
“Congratulations to you and everyone connected with hosting Planet PDA in Las Vegas. It was great, not only from a content, exhibits and networking aspect, but from the ROI one, too. My investment in time and money is already starting to pay off. I have already started to make plans for the May event in Boston and have encouraged several of my associates to make the investment as well.”

— Bob Donovan, CVO, Best Solutions Inc.

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Every enterprise is grappling with how to best benefit from the implementation of a handheld computing strategy. It's up to your management to set a corporate policy on how and which handheld devices will be implemented. This is perhaps the most crucial decision you can make as you may have to live with today's decision for years to come. This "Battle" is exactly that, a battle to determine which handheld computing solution is best for your organization.

Moderated By: Mobile Insights

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The Only Event Where You Can Compare All The Latest Handheld Computing Options Available!

“Thanks for putting on an excellent conference. I was able to make a number of new industry contacts as well as received some valuable insight into where the PDA industry is going.” — Jeff Brown, Marketing Operations Manager, Intel

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- Smart Clothing
- GPS Devices
- IP Telephones
- Scanners (Barcode and Others)
- Bluetooth Solutions
- Adapters
- Carrying Cases
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The networking at Planet PDA will sizzle. Don't miss this chance to get answers from industry experts who have successfully developed a handheld computing strategy within their enterprise. The diverse audience at this senior management-level event will forge new relationships as the implementation of handheld computing strategies in the enterprise heats up. Planet PDA delegates comprise high-level technical decision makers in the private and public sectors that offer a global perspective.

Many of those you'll meet, like you, once grappled with the most effective way to deploy handheld devices in their organizations. Come learn how they reached the decisions that led to their successful handheld computing implementation.



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BENEFICIAL LIFE	General Dynamics	National Long Distance, Inc.	State of Nevada - Dept. of Public Safety
Biomedical Consulting Associates	General Motors	National Nuclear Security	Sunrise Children's Hospital
Blue Ridge Medical Center	Go America	National Weather Service	SouthWest Bell
Calivada Telecom Consultants	Great American Insurance	Nellis Air Force Base	Symbol Technologies, Inc.
Cardiovascular Consultants of NV	Green Light Racing	NYC TRANSIT	Texas Instruments
Children's Hospital	Handspring, Inc.	Oklahoma State University	U.S. Air Force
Chiswell & Associates, LLC	Hewlett-Packard	OliveTree Bible Software	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Cisco Systems, Inc.	High Tech Nutrition, Inc.	Pacific Telcom	U.S. Geological Survey
City of Houston	Hi-Tech Gateway, Inc.	Palm, Inc.	U.S. Marine Corps
City of Plano	Instant Power by Electric Fuel Corporation	Panasonic	U.S. Navy
City of Sacramento	Intel Corporation	PDA Verticals	UBS Paine Webber
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Clark County Public Works	IRS	Quest Software Inc.	University of Illinois
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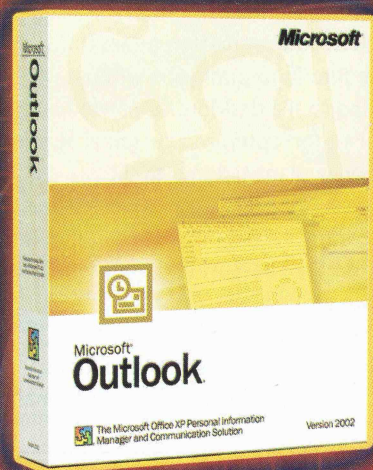
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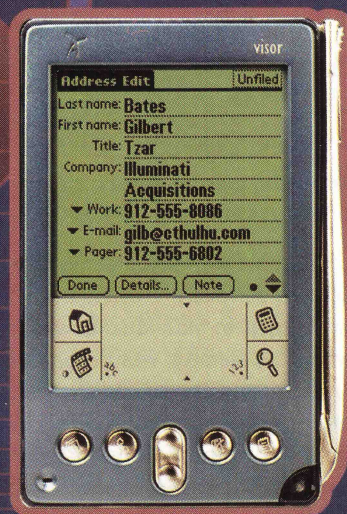
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Palm's i705 Targets Enterprise Wireless

What was once one of the worst kept secrets in the history of technology is finally a shipping product. The Palm i705, Palm's newest handheld, represents a new direction for the company: it's the first device the company has targeted directly at the enterprise.

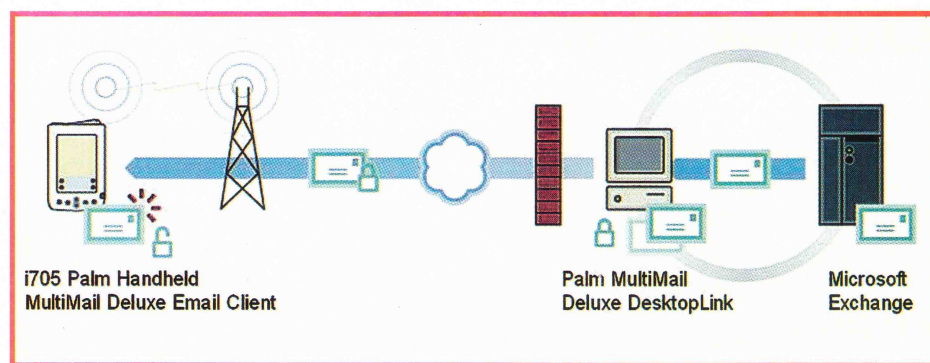
Since the device has been in the news for months now, it's no surprise that the i705 succeeds the Palm VII as Palm's high-end, always-on wireless PDA. Equipped with Palm OS 4.1, 8MB of RAM, an SD card slot, and integrated rechargeable batteries, the device also features a sleek, metallic, industrial finish reminiscent of the Palm V or the m500. The i705 is, in fact, fully

to-end solution that will allow the i705 to be deployed in large numbers within an organization without compromising the key requirements of IT: supportability and security.

While the i705 is available for individual road warriors—complete with a user-maintainable desktop solution that encrypts and sends corporate email to the handheld device—Palm's enterprise package wraps the i705 around a complete back-end software package. The Enterprise Software Suite, for instance, allows administrators to customize and install a standard software image onto each i705 in the organization, including local CRM packages and third party software along with the wireless

encrypted email to users from behind the corporate firewall. Thanks to the i705's MultiMail Deluxe email package, users can filter messages on the fly from the device itself, so the device can retrieve messages by sender, subject matter, or keyword, and change filtering parameters without returning to the desktop. Palm even offers administrator-optimized customer support and service plans tailored to the enterprise—there are a variety of flexible billing options designed to accommodate any number of corporate cost accounting procedures.

The i705 ships with the standard complement of core Palm applications, along with Documents To Go Professional,



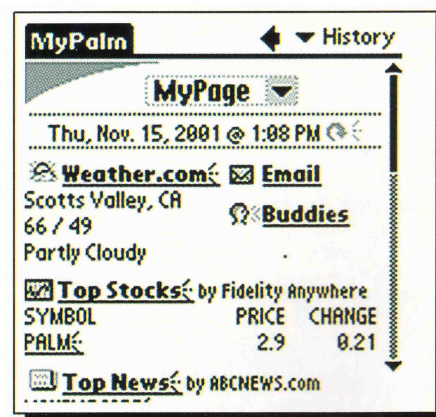
Email stays secure, since it's encrypted behind the corporate firewall and not unencrypted until it reaches your handheld.

compatible with m500-series clip-on and SD card peripherals. Obviously, the device will appeal to individual power users. But where the Palm VII wasn't suitable for many enterprise environments, the i705 has been designed from the outset to accommodate finicky IT staffs.

Indeed, Palm's enterprise strategy for the i705 goes well beyond the hardware itself. Palm has rolled out a complete end-

connection software via an SD card. That makes imaging and deploying the i705 more like a notebook rollout than a PDA purchase, and it's an important step toward assuring IT that Palm has what it takes to compete with Compaq.

That's not all. The Palm Wireless Desktop Server connects to the company's mail server (Palm supports both Lotus Notes and Microsoft Exchange) and pushes



Your first destination might be MyPalm, a portal with news, stocks, and weather.

MGI PhotoSuite, and the Palm Reader e-book application. On the Internet, the i705 can take advantage of instant messaging via an AOL Instant Messenger-compatible IM utility. Palm also made sure that the i705 can access the full breadth of the Web; it isn't limited to PQA applications like the older Palm VII. Email, the communicator's



The i705 is an always-on wireless communicator with SD card expansion.

core application, can access as many as eight accounts: a corporate email account, a Palm.com email address, and six additional Internet email services.

While the largest segment of the handheld market continues to be PIM-only devices, it's clear that Palm wants to help grow the communicator market. But will anyone be buying? Ken Dulaney, an analyst at the Gartner Group, thinks Palm faces a challenge as it tries convincing IT to invest in Palm's Wireless Desktop Server. "Palm is not the only device out there. The more hardware vendors you get interfacing to the mail server, costs will start to spiral and you'll end up leaving your day job to run all these servers." Nonetheless, Dulaney is optimistic: "This is the first product they've produced in the last three years in which there's a compelling reason to upgrade."

Margi Makes Laptops Obsolete

Even if your Palm fleet is equipped with word processor and spreadsheet software, your users probably need to schlep around a laptop to deliver PowerPoint presentations anyway. That is both inconvenient and costly—we don't need to tell you that laptops are theft magnets, maintenance intensive, and hard to handle on the go. Margi's Presenter-to-Go is a Springboard module for the Handspring Visor that potentially makes notebook computers obsolete—using Presenter-to-Go, PowerPoint slides can be pumped directly from the Visor to a projector or another video system with VGA input.

Presenter-to-Go supports 1024x768-pixel, 256-color slides, even if the Visor itself is a grayscale model. Slides can be stored in the Visor's memory or on the module's 2MB of RAM. Margi claims that, thanks to the company's compression scheme, users can pack about 100 slides into the module's Flash RAM.

The Visor attaches to the projection system via a short VGA cable. Since maintaining a video signal requires a lot of power, Presenter-to-Go also requires external power via an AC adapter. While you can preview slides, control the slideshow, and even read notes directly from the Visor, Presenter-to-Go also includes a credit card-sized remote that allows you to keep your distance from the Visor and move about the room. Priced at \$249, Presenter-to-Go is not inexpensive. But if you calculate the marginal manpower cost of setting up and breaking down a traditional notebook for mobile presentations, you find that you're paying professionals thousands of dollars each year to wait for Windows to start and shut down. Presenter-to-Go, in contrast, can display PowerPoint presentations almost instantly.



Margi PtG Visor with projector.

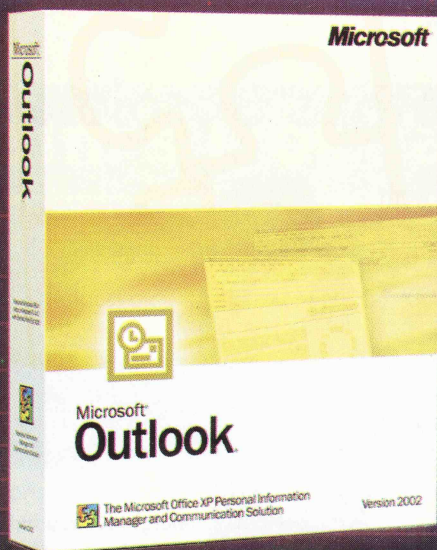
SkyMobile Fills the Browse-It Void

Opting not to launch a subscription service for its mobile users, Pumatech has pulled the plug on its wireless services platform. The company's Browse-It Web browser for Palm OS devices had offered sophisticated Web browsing and data synchronization services in a free trial mode, but that service has now been suspended.

Filling in the void is Zero Gravity, a Pumatech corporate partner. Zero Gravity now offers its SkyMobile Services Platform, a combination of wireless products that

are based on Pumatech's Browse-It technology. SkyMobile includes a color browser, along with email, calendar, and document management applications. Zero Gravity SkyDrive, for instance, facilitates collaboration, document sharing, and remote storage and retrieval of files from wireless Palm devices. The SkyMobile Services Platform is available for most Palm devices for \$8.95/month. One month free trials are available at www.skymobile.ca.

Improving Your Outlook



*A variety of utilities
take the pain out of
making your Palm and
Microsoft Outlook
work together*

By Dave Johnson

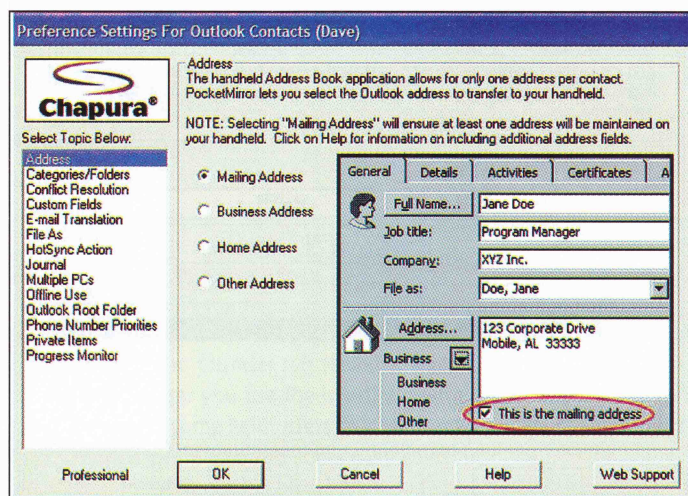
Love it or hate it, there's a good chance that your Palm synchronizes with Microsoft Outlook—as a standard part of Microsoft Office, it's the most popular contact manager in the world. Indeed, Outlook has always been such a popular application that Palm decided way back in 1998 that compatibility with it was simply too important to leave out of the box. Other Palm device vendors followed suit. Since that time, every Palm Powered handheld has shipped with conduits that synchronize its data with Outlook's contacts, calendar, notes, and to-dos.

Of course, that doesn't mean that Outlook connectivity isn't without its occasional problems. Neither Outlook nor the Palm's built-in applications were designed with the other in mind, and sometimes they fit together about as well as square data in a round conduit. Don't misunderstand: the average user will rarely encounter Outlook trouble; the HotSync process is reassuringly reliable. But those users who mine every bit of performance from Outlook or who have very sophisticated information management habits know that things can go awry. The Palm and Outlook take different approaches to categorizing items, for instance. It's all too easy to end up with duplicate entries on the Palm and desktop. And sometimes the sync process just isn't very smart, unable to transfer special fields in Outlook's Contacts module. If any of those problems sound familiar, there's hope: a variety of alternative conduits and utilities are standing by to improve your Outlook.

The Out of Box Experience

Every Palm sold today—whether it's a Palm m505, Handspring Treo, or Sony Clié, comes with all the plumbing necessary to synchronize with Outlook. It's so seamless, in fact, that users often don't even realize the software doesn't come directly from Palm. The reality, though, is that your Outlook conduits are licensed from companies that were making Outlook sync software before Palm even thought such software was important. During the handheld's initial installation, you are asked whether you plan to sync to the Palm Desktop or Microsoft Outlook; answer the latter, and the installer configures Chapura's PocketMirror Standard—unless you have a Sony Clié, in which case you get Pumatech's Intellisync Lite.

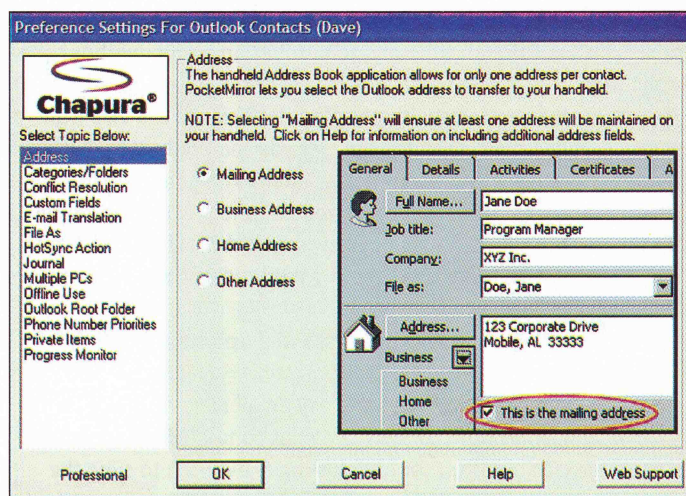
These programs act like digital conduits. They channel, organize, and synchronize the data between Outlook and the Palm's four core applications. Their features are fine for most users, but there are alternatives—four, in fact—that you can choose if this out of box experience leaves you flat.



Sync to a different Outlook Contact address with a single click in PocketMirror Professional.

Since most users begin with the standard edition of PocketMirror, it stands to reason that PocketMirror Professional is a popular option for upgraders who want more from their Outlook conduit. But with a typically simple and seamless HotSync experience using PocketMirror Standard, what does the professional version offer users?

First and foremost, PocketMirror Professional breaks down the limitation that keeps users in a corporate environment from accessing public folders and subfolders. PocketMirror lets your Palm synchronize with public folders where businesses typically store general-access data like company contact lists and office calendars.



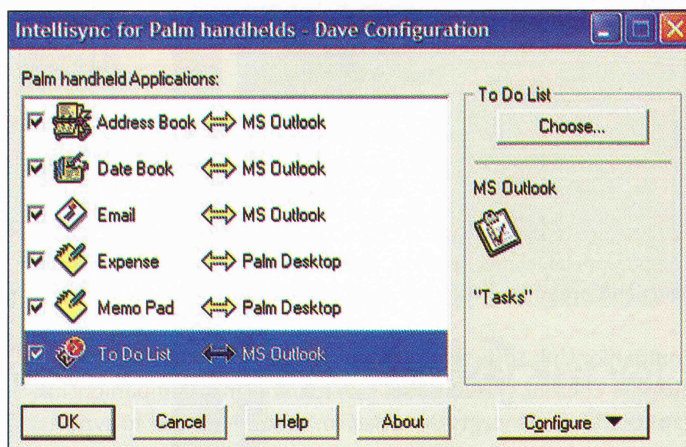
PocketMirror Professional lets you perform global one-time actions quickly and easily.

If you work in a large office, you may also be used to using subfolders in ways that your Palm doesn't typically expect. You may sort your Contacts into subfolders, for instance, or store personal and business events in separate subfolders within the Calendar. PocketMirror Professional recognizes those subfolders and displays them as categories on the Palm. Since the standard Palm Date Book doesn't support categories at all, Chapura includes another program called Chapura Calendar. This direct replacement for the Date Book includes a category filter that lets you display just those entries from specific calendars or calendar subfolders.

Intellisync Pumatech, www.pumatech.com, \$69.95, Upgrade \$34.95

Intellisync is no doubt the most unique synchronization solution available for the Palm, with a number of features unavailable elsewhere. Pumatech offers several tiers of Intellisync, including a standard retail version and a trio of enterprise products. Intellisync Gold is a site-license version of the conduit that supports a wide variety of devices and information management packages. Enterprise Intellisync combines the conduit with a management console that administrators can leverage to control the way individual users sync. Intellisync Anywhere is a true server-based solution that provides remote synchronization features to an organization's mobile workforce.

For most users, though, even just the standard version of Intellisync offers a dramatically different experience than programs like Desktop To Go or PocketMirror. First and foremost, the program performs synchronization at the field level, not the record level. That means Intellisync is significantly more robust when it comes to resolving conflicts. Consider a situation in which you have changed a contact's address on the PC as well as its phone number on the



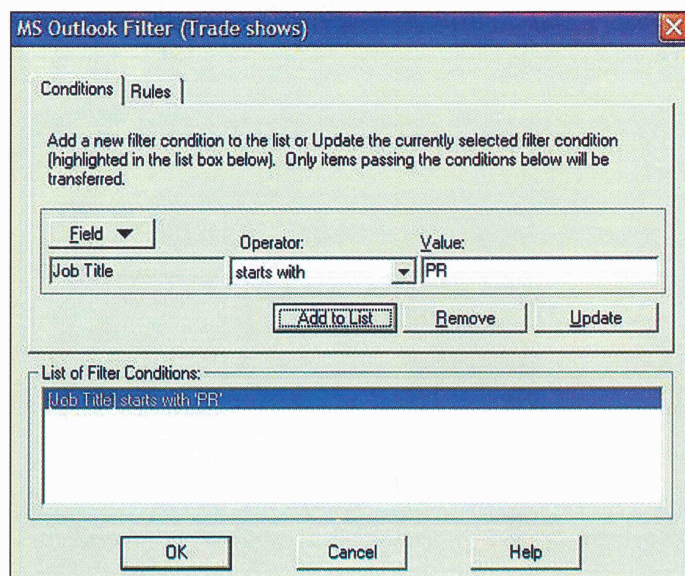
Intellisync makes it easy to sync different applications to your Palm simultaneously.

Palm. Most conduits have little choice but to duplicate that record and let you solve the problem manually. Intellisync can detect the changed fields and update the record accordingly—fixing the address on the Palm and the phone number on the PC, without any duplication of records.

Intellisync's custom field mapping capabilities are also quite extensive. While most conduits only let you manually map Outlook data to the Palm's four custom fields, Intellisync gives you insight into its entire field map, and gives you complete control over the way the Palm syncs with the PC. Likewise, a robust filtering engine lets you specify detailed rules about what kind of data is—or isn't—routinely transferred to the Palm.

Finally, Intellisync may be an essential upgrade simply because of its Outlook email synchronization—a feature no other conduit offers. Palm offers rudimentary email sync right out of the box (which may account for why no other conduit developers have eagerly tackled this area), but Intellisync allows you to sync the Palm's mail application with any number of specific email subfolders. That means your Palm can be configured to automatically carry specific messages, such as email related to a business trip.

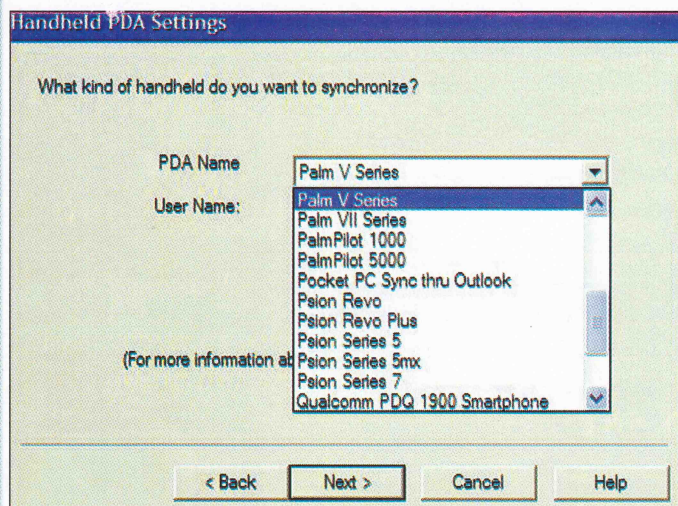
Only Sony Clie users get Intellisync as their default Outlook conduit. Sony licenses Intellisync Lite, though, a slimmed-down version of the program that does not include email synchronization.



Intellisync offers a powerful set of filters for very targeted syncs with Outlook.

Pumatech offers an upgrade path to the standard version of Intellisync for these users.

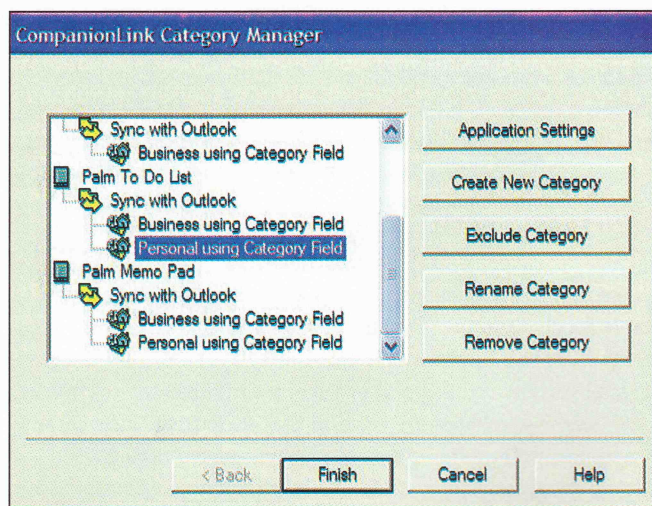
CompanionLink CompanionLink Software, www.companionlink.com, Express: \$49.95, Pro: \$74.95



CompanionLink comes ready to work with a huge number of handhelds and organizers—not just Palm and Outlook.

CompanionLink Software offers several versions of its multi-purpose conduit system called CompanionLink. CompanionLink Express, for instance, is designed for users that need to sync exclusively between a single information manager and one Palm Powered handheld. CompanionLink Professional, on the other hand, allows synchronization between multiple data files or several different information managers and the handheld.

At its core, though, CompanionLink is designed to be a



Easily exclude specific categories from the sync process using CompanionLink.

conduit for advanced CRM solutions, not just Outlook. Specializing in applications like Goldmine and ACT!, there's not a lot under the hood of these programs to peel Outlook users away from more mainstream applications like PocketMirror, Desktop to Go, and Intellisync.

On the other hand, CompanionLink might be appealing to users who spend time in both Outlook and another information manager, like Goldmine—something other conduits aren't really

designed to accommodate. CompanionLink DoubleLook, for instance, is \$49.95 application that takes the Pocket PC approach to synchronization—it happens in real-time, as you make changes to the information manager. As a result, every change made in Outlook or GoldMine's Contact, Calendar, and To-do List is immediately reflected on your Palm as well as in the other application. That ensures the integrity of data both on the desktop and on the Palm. CompanionLink Software expects to release a version of DoubleLook that's compatible with ACT! and Lotus Notes later this year.

When Things Go Wrong

Use a Palm Powered handheld for any length of time, and you might start to suspect that perhaps Palm founder Jeff Hawkins wasn't an avid information manager user. Indeed, the longer you use the handheld with Outlook, the more glitches begin to surface. We polled some Palm users to determine their most common issues with Outlook. Here are their problems and some easy solutions:

I used Palm Desktop for a while, but I want to switch to Outlook. How do I tell Palm Desktop to start synchronizing with Outlook instead?

That's easy—just find your original Palm Desktop software CD and re-run the installation program. This time, when it asks if you want to use Palm Desktop or Outlook, just choose Outlook.

One of my Outlook conduits has disappeared!

Sometimes, uninstalling a Palm application from the desktop can unexpectedly make other conduits disappear at the same time. Grab your original Palm Desktop disc and reinstall your Outlook conduits to restore the missing files.

I use lots of categories in Outlook, but Palm only supports 15.

Perhaps the most popular complaint about Outlook compatibility, Palm for Dummies author Bill Dyszel has a simple workaround: "I create codes that represent categories and put them in the note field. I can search for the codes on the Palm and avoid the category shortcoming entirely."

I want to synchronize with Public Folders, but the Palm doesn't seem to allow that.

You need to upgrade. Several alternative conduits handle public folders, such as Intellisync and PocketMirror Professional.

My Palm only synchronizes business addresses from Outlook. How do I also get personal addresses?

You may need to upgrade your conduit to a program that lets you remap the Outlook fields which get synchronized. PocketMirror Professional, Desktop To Go, and Intellisync are all examples of software that let you remap the fields to include the personal addresses from Contacts.

When I change the name of a single instance of a recurring event on the Palm, it changes all of the events in Outlook.

Beware: the two programs treat recurring events differently. If you change the name of a single recurring appointment in Outlook, it changes just that one event, leaving the rest alone. Change the name of a single event in the Palm Date Book, on the other hand, and it changes every recurring instance to the new name. If you want to change the name of a single appointment, just create a new event instead.

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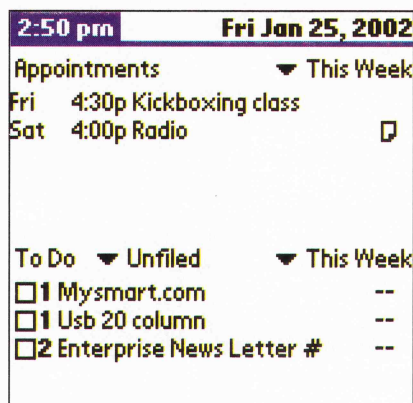
Purchase Orders
Welcome

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We are not responsible for typographical errors.

One of the oldest synchronization tools for the Palm, Outlook Desktop To Go is still a popular alternative to the default conduit for many users. On the whole, Desktop To Go offers largely the same feature set as Chapura's PocketMirror Professional. Most notably, the program supports public folder synchronization for users with access to public folders on a Microsoft Exchange Server, along with custom field mapping and emergency recovery tools.

Desktop to Go's custom field mapping lets you synchronize up to four additional fields from Outlook with the Palm using the four usually-unused custom fields. A security feature also lets you block records marked as "private" from being synced to Outlook. It's also possible to migrate back to using the Palm Desktop instead of Outlook at any time with a simple toggle, and later switch back to Outlook again.

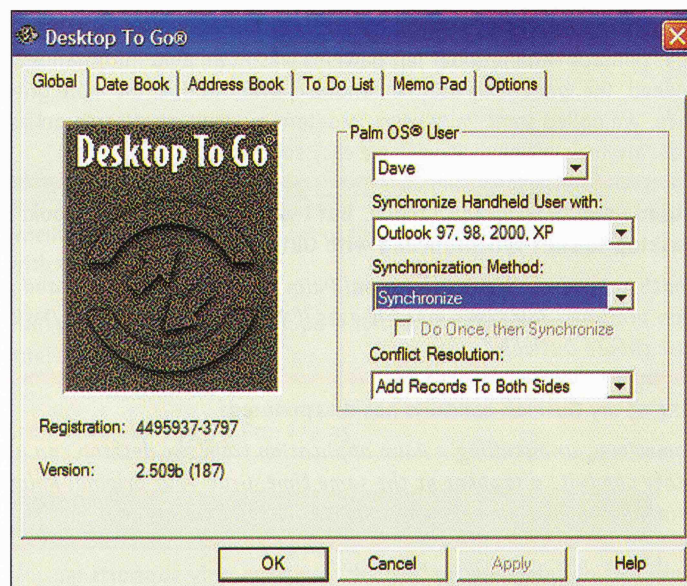
DataViz bundles a program with Desktop To Go called WhatzUp, which is designed to be a Palm-sized version of the Outlook "Today" view on your PC's desktop. In reality, WhatzUp improves upon Palm OS 3.5's Date Book Agenda View—the application shows appointments and To Dos at a glance on a split screen. Unlike the somewhat anemic Agenda View, though,



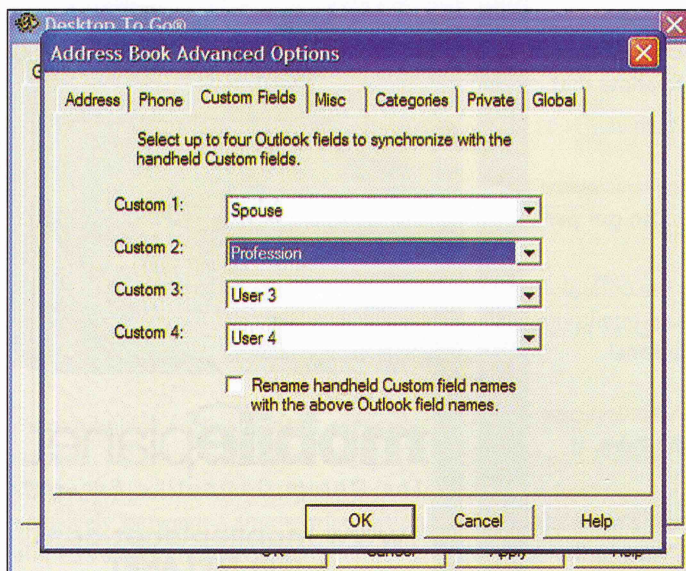
Desktop To Go's WhatzUp combines appointments and To Dos better than the Agenda View.

you can select a date range for the displayed events: just today, or some period of time up to a month forward.

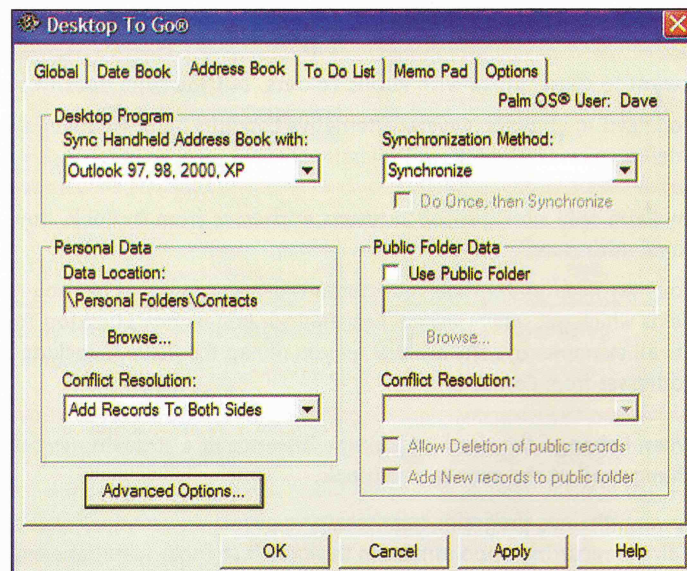
An especially useful feature is the program's Backup Levels, which preserve the configuration of the Palm's four core applications in a backup folder on the PC in case of catastrophic failure. Consequently, Desktop To Go offers an emergency recovery feature for contacts, appointments, and other data without investing in additional backup software.



Desktop To Go has an excellent, tabbed interface for configuring your sync settings.



Populate the four Palm custom fields with Outlook data using Desktop To Go.



Using Desktop To Go, you can sync to Exchange Server public folders.

Outlook Helpers

Since we spend so much time with Palm and Outlook's information management features, it stands to reason that we're always on the lookout for ways to streamline the process. Thankfully, software developers have responded to that need with a variety of utilities. Many of these programs are far from essential, but they shave precious moments from our day while automating key aspects of the information management process.



UnDupe, an essential utility, eradicates annoying duplicate entries from the Date Book and Address Book.

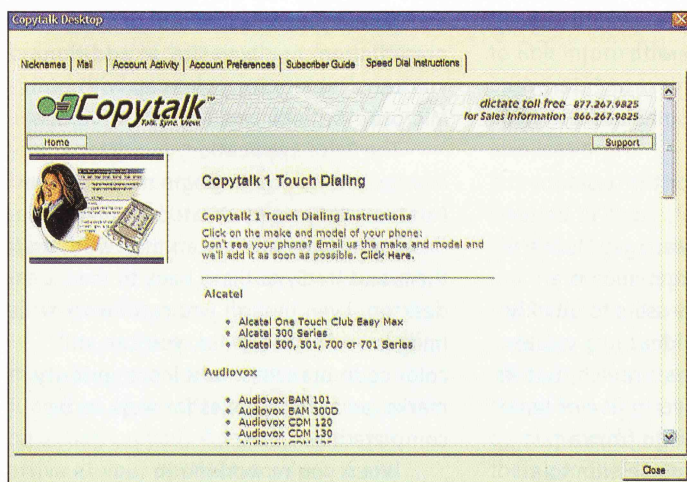
Every person who has ever ended up with duplicate entries in their Palm should invest in a copy of **UnDupe**, for instance. UnDupe, from Stevens Creek Software (www.stevenscreek.com), is a \$7.95 utility that searches your Palm for duplicate records and deletes them automatically. Duplicate entries can arise for a number of somewhat esoteric reasons. On occasion, your Outlook conduit can get

confused and duplicate dozens or hundreds of records on the Palm, for instance. We've also seen programs like WeSync that remotely store your information on a Web server sometimes litter

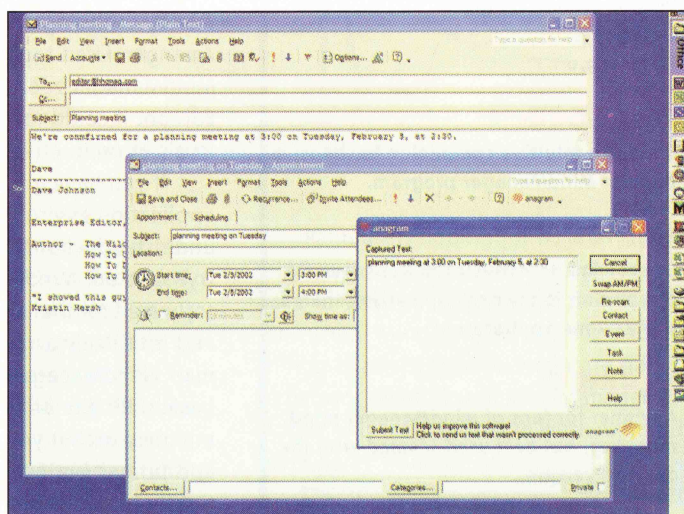
the Palm with countless duplicates. Worse, the next time you synchronize, Outlook then inherits all those dupes, compounding the problem. As a result, it's a good idea to keep UnDupe on your Palm and run it occasionally in the same way that you periodically defragment your PC's hard disk.

Other programs are focused on streamlining data entry into Outlook and your Palm. **CopyTalk** (reviewed elsewhere in this issue) is an excellent example. Designed primarily for busy executives, CopyTalk is a dictation service that saves you the trouble of typing entries into your Palm. For a metered fee (based on how many "information units" you use each month), you simply call a toll-free telephone number and dictate emails, contact information, calendar events, and other Palm data. Emails are sent automatically for you using data from your Palm's Address Book, and other data is automatically synced to your Palm via the Internet at the next HotSync. CopyTalk is available from www.copytalk.com.

If you want help entering data into your Palm without resorting to a telephone transcription service, you might be interested in **Anagram**, from Textual (www.getanagram.com), a clever "parsing" program that can intelligently file appointments, addresses, and other bits of data into your Palm and Outlook automatically. The \$16.95 program is surprisingly effective—just select text from an email message, for instance, and activate the Anagram keyboard shortcut. Moments later, Anagram opens the appropriate Outlook dialog box (such as a new appointment window) and arranges the information for you. A HotSync transfers that same information to the Palm. Anagram is currently in beta, but we've used it successfully for quite some time without any glitches.



CopyTalk's unique telephone transcription service keeps your Palm and Outlook up to date without any typing.



Anagram can grab appointment information from email messages and pour it into the calendar automatically.

MindManager 2002 Mobile Edition

Mind mapping takes outlining a step further

Do you often find yourself doodling in meetings? If your doodles actually had something to do with your meetings, would you remember them better? For the many fans of mind mapping, a visual brainstorming technique developed by Tony Buzan, the answer is an enthusiastic yes.

Mindjet's MindManager, the leading mind mapping software application, claims users at 61 of the Fortune 100 companies, has just released MindManager 2002 Mobile Edition, a Palm software companion to the MindManager desktop application. If a picture is really worth a thousand words, imagine the Graffiti

scribbles MindManager Mobile could save you.

So is mind mapping for you? Even if you hated outlines in 4th grade, this application may still find a place on your Palm. Carl Ford, Community Developer at Pulver.Com, has this to say about mind mapping. "Before I knew mind mapping, any note I ever took was a lost memory. With mind mapping I gain the benefit of instant recall and also a holistic view of any topic. A mind mapping application for the Palm has been the Holy Grail for me and a lot of other business users."

Does Mindjet's new entry into the field of Palm software fill the gap? Yes and no. MindManager Mobile was designed primarily as a companion application for a desktop application with a fanatically loyal installed user base. Used by itself on your Palm without the desktop application, the application is a worthy outlining program, reminiscent of Arranger. Used together with MindManager 2002 Business or Enterprise Edition, it could rocket some users to new levels of productivity.

If you have a feel for the desktop application environment, you will better understand what MindManager Mobile is trying to do. MindManager 2002 is a software tool that allows users to quickly and intuitively arrange ideas in a visual map. MindManager is feature rich, but its basic skills can be learned in five or ten minutes. With it you can go from a fast and furious brainstorming session to a tightly organized implementation plan in record time. MindManager Business Edition supports peer-to-peer collaboration over a LAN. MindManager Enterprise Edition comes with server

software that allows real-time synchronous collaboration over the Web. Following a coMindManager's mind maps consist of a title (the theme of your map), around which branches and subbranches display the topics and subtopics that relate to your theme. Branches can be have symbols, images, color coding, priorities, and due dates assigned to them. Adding a branch or subbranch in the desktop application is easy. Press Enter and then label your new branch; to add a subbranch simply press Insert. Almost magically, your random ideas take on a shape. If ideas are in the wrong place, you drag a branch to another location where you think it might fit better. You can add a images from a variety of formats to make a point or jazz up your map. When you finish, MindManager's export capabilities allow you to export your map as a graphic, as an RTF text file, a PowerPoint presentation, or a web site. In addition, you can synchronize your map with both Microsoft Outlook and Microsoft Project.

The Palm application, MindManager Mobile, allows you to begin maps on the Palm, or carry maps created on the desktop with you. You can then work on them and HotSync them back to the desktop. Even though you can't work with images on the handheld, you can still color code branches, add icons, priority marks, and check boxes for work to be completed.

When you're working in MindManager mobile, you are always in one of three views: Map list, Map View, or Branch View. Map list shows any maps you have available on your Palm. The Map View is an overview of your map. You can

CONTACT:

Mindjet
www.mindjet.com
Requires: PalmOS 3.0
Version Tested: 1.0.192
Size: 300 K
Price: \$49.0

THE GOOD:

Good: An intuitive companion to the popular MindManager program.

THE BAD:

Doesn't link to native Palm apps; more a companion to the desktop version than a stand-alone application.

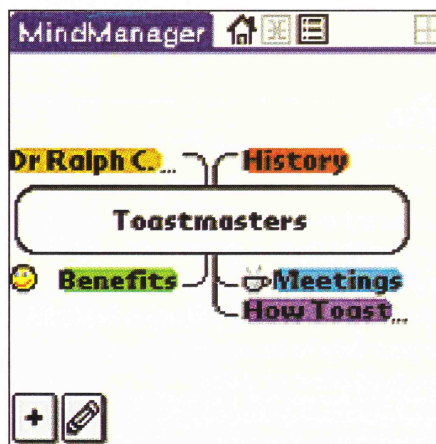
VERDICT:

A winner for fans of MindManager mind mapping, but best used teamed with the desktop version.





MM Mobile gets its point across with color, icons, and check boxes.



Map View shows the top level of this map with 200+ branches.



An expanded map view.

see only the highest level branches here. You can move top-level branches in this view, but you cannot edit your map. Branch View is where all your real work gets done.

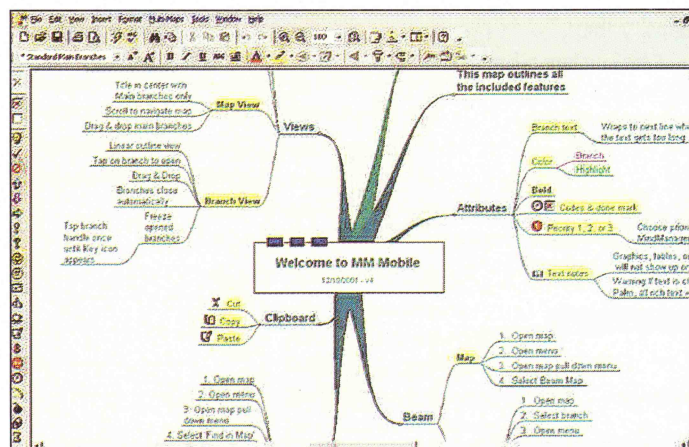
To maximize the Palm's limited screen real estate, Branch View shows you a text-based list of your branches and subbranches. You can drag branches to higher or lower locations in your outline, or drag them into subbranches of other branches. In addition, the color coding, symbol codes, and priority notations are available from this view. Additionally, you can add long text notes to any branch. As expected, you can beam your maps to other MindManager Mobile users. When you sync the MindManager Mobile map back to your desktop, it appears in all its graphic glory.

One of the most useful features for many business users is the export functions of MindManager. You can work on a map on your Palm and when you arrive at your destination, sync it and then export it to PowerPoint or as a set of linked web pages.

HotSync speed depends on several factors. Because the maps that you create or sync from the desktop can get very

large very quickly, HotSync speed can seem a bit slow at times. For best speeds, make sure that you close the desktop application before synchronizing.

Presently, there is no way to link information on a map to any of the native Palm applications. I hope that future versions of the MindManager Mobile include a way to link to the Datebook, Address Book, and the To Do list. Developers should also consider giving MindManager Mobile the ability to export a mind map directly to Memo Pad so users can share work with others who don't have MindManager on their handhelds. Another consideration might be adapting the existing MindManager viewer software to enable MindManager Mobile users to share their work with people who don't own the desktop application.



The MindManager Desktop Environment.

Palm users hoping for a stand-alone mind mapping application are going to have to keep waiting. On the other hand, the current MindManager users or those willing to adopt MindManager are going to be very pleased with MindManager Mobile and the freedom to work on mind maps away from the desktop.

—Bob Freud

Cloak

A digital vault for sensitive data

Where do you store your most sensitive, personal data? Forget about your Enron records—we're talking about usernames, passwords, credit card numbers, and access codes. Those bits of data are the keycards to your life; they deserve to be well-protected. At the same time, you need easy access. Some users compromise by storing that stuff as private records on the Palm, but a free program called No Security can expose all your private data faster than you can say "identity theft."

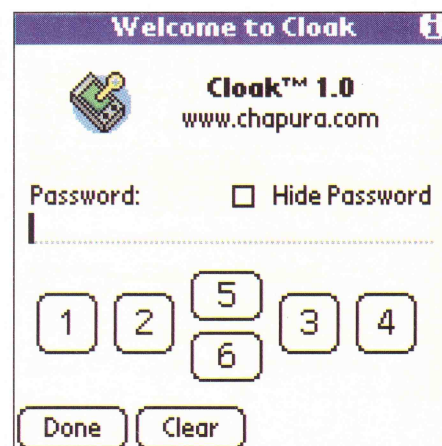
Cloak offers a better solution. A sort of digital safe for your private information, Cloak both protects your data and makes it easy to find by assembling it all in one place on your Palm. The Cloak database is protected by a robust 128-bit Blowfish encryption algorithm. A master password

is required to enter the program, and you can specify whether it's masked or visible as you enter it. Cloak automatically closes if your Palm shuts off, making it impossible for your data to be accessed if your handheld is lost or stolen.

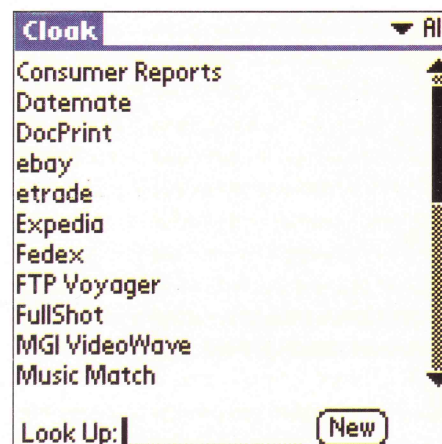
It's secure, yes—but is it convenient? You store your data in "accounts," each of which includes a half-dozen fields that make it easy to arrange your information. A Website account has fields for URL, username, password, and email address, for instance, while the Credit Card account give you spaces for the card number, expiration date, and PIN. If the default fields don't satisfy you, Cloak makes it easy to rename the fields (you can change the "registration number" field to "order number," for instance). Need to enter more information? Every account can have its own note as well. Cloak includes eleven account styles, so there's a ready-made set of fields for almost any data storage need, from insurance data to software registration, plus a free-form "miscellaneous" account.

The Cloak interface operates much like the Palm's Notepad. It displays all of your accounts in a list view, with just a description visible. Tap on a description and the details of the account are then unencrypted and revealed.

A desktop component duplicates the Cloak database within Windows (but no, there's no version for the Macintosh). On the desktop, Cloak requires the same password for entry and can be used to enter or edit data—just like on the Palm. Because we often need to copy information from Cloak into other documents, like credit card numbers into Web pages, for instance, we like the way the Cloak desktop application displays the contents of the



Cloak password-protects all of your most sensitive data



Each piece of information—like credit cards and access codes—is stored separately.

selected account without opening additional windows or dialog boxes. Indeed, we have found that Cloak is a great place to store any kind of information you need to quickly access throughout the day. Built-in security is, some of the time, just an added bonus.

The Palm makes it easy to get careless with your personal data. Cloak isn't the only data encryption program for the Palm, but it's one of the best. For \$20, Cloak ensures that your important information stays close at hand and secure—whether you're at your desk or on the road.

—Dave Johnson

CONTACT:

Chapura
www.chapura.com
Requires: Palm OS 3.0 or higher, Windows 95/NT 4.0 or higher
Version Tested: 1.0
Size: 80k
Price: \$19.95

THE GOOD:

Convenient, flexible, and extremely secure.

THE BAD:

It's not available for the Mac.

VERDICT:

An excellent way to protect passwords, PINs, and access codes.



CopyTalk

Your own personal dictation assistant

At first blush, it may seem like a silly gimmick—but there's nothing silly about an effective telephone dictation system for your Palm Powered handheld in which you call in notes, memos, contact information, and emails, and someone else does all the work. Especially if you're frequently stuck in traffic, tend to live at the airport, or already work so many hours that you can't bear the hassle of maintaining your handheld's data.

In a nutshell, CopyTalk is a sort of personal assistant that does all your data entry for you: just dial a toll-free number and speak normally. Since CopyTalk eschews funky voice recognition software for good-old fashioned human beings, there are no menu trees, voice commands, or lengthy tutorials to contend with. Indeed, when we tested CopyTalk, we were using the system in minutes, with virtually no learning curve.

In a single phone session, you can dictate any number of appointments, contacts, notes, and to-dos. The data arrives in your handheld, usually just a few minutes later, during your next HotSync thanks to an Internet-enabled conduit, usually available just a few minutes later. If CopyTalk recognizes your phone number, you can start dictating immediately; if you call from a different phone, you'll need to enter a code first so it knows who you are.

There's no doubt that CopyTalk's best feature is its ability to send email messages. CopyTalk syncs to your Palm's Address Book and uses a simple nickname system for identifying addressees, so sending messages is as easy as saying "send an email to Rick," and then dictating the contents. You have the option of reviewing the finished message on your PC's desktop before it's sent, or you can do what we did—let the messages go out right away. Recipients



CopyTalk's Palm application updates you on the status of your transcriptions after each HotSync.

receive the email as if it came from your very own POP account, with a note at the end of each message to "confirm critical details" since the message was transcribed.

Since CopyTalk relies on human beings to handle your data, you may be concerned about the privacy of your data. Here, CopyTalk has struck a balance: since transcriptionists don't have access to information that would identify subscribers, your calls are theoretically anonymous. So while we'd discourage Bill Gates from CopyTalking email about DOJ hearings, the system seems perfectly secure for most users.

You can dial into CopyTalk 24/7, though the transcription centers aren't actually manned after midnight during the week or after 5 p.m. on the weekends. CopyTalk relies on a cell phone-like pricing structure that charges a monthly fee based on how many "units" you use, in which each unit is a data field or a line of text. Plans vary from the entry-level Silver Plan (which costs \$25/month) to the \$75/month Platinum Plan. Additional units that exceed

your plan's quota are charged like excess airtime minutes. Which plan do you need? It's not obvious—at least to us—how much data we're actually transcribing, and we suspect new users may initially find themselves in the wrong plan. Consider this: the Silver plan should buy you some combination of 60 short emails, 100 To-Dos, and 25 addresses each month. How many To-Dos do you write each month?

While the billing process could perhaps be a bit simpler, CopyTalk is otherwise a gem. We suspect that CopyTalk is a decadent luxury for most working stiffs, but it's a brilliant solution for anyone who believes that there's nothing more valuable than time.

—Dave Johnson

CONTACT:

CopyTalk
www.copytalk.com
Requires: Palm OS 3.3 or higher,
Windows 95 or higher, Internet
connection
Version Tested: 2.0
Size: 102k
Price: Varies by usage. Plans start at
\$25/month

THE GOOD:

Send email and update your Palm via phone.

THE BAD:

Cellular-style billing adapted to text.

VERDICT:

A brilliant, well-executed transcription service for busy road warriors.



ThoughtManager Desktop

A powerful outliner for your handheld and PC alike

CONTACT

Hand High Software, Inc.
www.handhigh.com
Requires: Palm OS 3.0 or greater; Windows Desktop requires Windows 95 or above.
Version Tested: ThoughtManager Desktop 1.0; ThoughtManager 2.03
Size: 216 kb for Palm OS software
Price: \$39.95

GOOD

Easy to use, with a very intuitive interface.

BAD

Documentation only in HTML, with no print-optimized PDF version.

VERDICT

An excellent tool for organizing your ideas, or your life.



Outlining, for those who may have forgotten, is a multi-stepped process for taking ideas and organizing them into a finished product. It begins with brainstorming to develop ideas; moves to organization where the ideas are put into a logical order; and then to analysis where the ideas are developed into a finished product. ThoughtManager Desktop for Windows, and its companion Palm OS software, provide the tools you'll need to get your ideas in writing no matter where the creative urge strikes.

While ThoughtManager for the Palm OS, now at version 2.03, has been available for some time, ThoughtManager Desktop for Windows is a new addition to the ThoughtManager family. It should be noted that ThoughtManager for the Palm OS, available separately for \$19.95, can be used with any Palm OS handheld. ThoughtManager Desktop, \$39.95, includes both the Windows Desktop software and the companion Palm OS software. If you're a Mac user and would like to see a Macintosh version of the Desktop, visit the Hands High Software website and voice your support.

ThoughtManager provides a full pallet of tools for creating your outline and adding the information needed to complete the project. New items are added with a click of the mouse. Sub-heads are inserted via tools on ThoughtManager's toolbar. The ThoughtManager Desktop toolbar also allows you to choose how many levels of outline headings are displayed on the screen. If you'd rather create checklists, bullet headings can be substituted with a check box to show the checked items or to delete items as you check them off as complete. Checkboxes allow you to turn any outline into a planning tool.

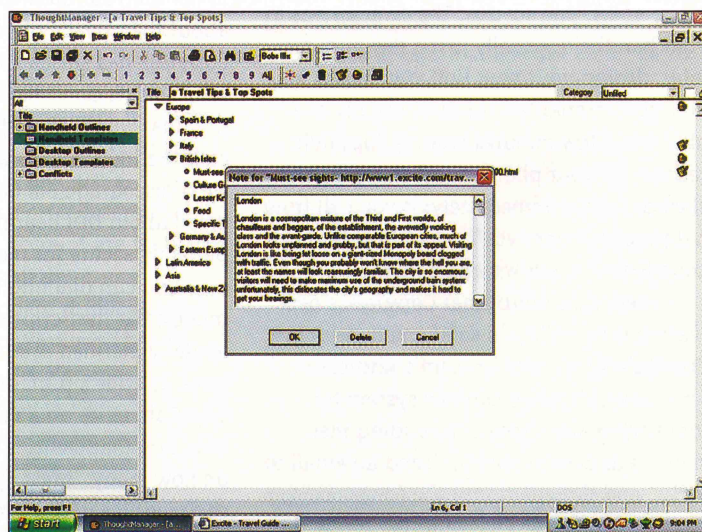
Should you need to add notes or drawings to your outline, you can simply right-click the item and specify the addition. Adding a note opens a text editing window. Adding a drawing to your outline opens a simple drawing program. You can

also use these tools to copy drawings and text from other sources, such as web pages, and paste the information into your outline. ThoughtManager also directly imports and exports Microsoft Word outlines and documents.

ThoughtManager uses a similar interface for both the Windows Desktop and Palm OS versions of the software. You can begin an outline on your Windows computer, HotSync your handheld to transfer the outline to your Palm OS handheld. Changes made to the outline on either platform are transferred during the HotSync. In the event you make changes on both your computer and handheld and forget to HotSync, the outline is moved to a special Conflicts folder on the ThoughtManager Desktop so you can decide which version of the outline to continue with. Finally, if you have an outline you'd like to use over again, something like a shopping list comes to mind, you can save your outline as a template and then reuse it.

If you're looking for outlining ideas, a number of examples are available for downloading at the Hand High Software website, as well as a 30-day free trial version of the software. Hands High also offers a specialized version of ThoughtManager designed for K-12 teachers.

—Bob Eller



Planning a trip? Use ThoughtManager to create a personalized itinerary for your travels. Insert information directly from the web on places you'd like to visit.

Clié PEG-T615C

Thin, colorful, and loud

Having cornered the market in Palm Powered innovation with the Clíé PEG-N760C, Sony now seems to be competing with itself.

Witness the newly arrived PEG-T615C, which sheds some of the N760C's bulk while doubling the RAM (to 16MB), vastly enhancing the audio, fleshing out the software bundle, and keeping the price below \$400. It still misses a trick or two, but it's definitely one of the most appealing color handhelds yet. In addition to the welcome extra memory, the T615C's best assets are its sleek, slimline design (4.65x2.83x0.5 inches—just a hair thicker than the grayscale T415), gloriously sharp 320x320 color screen (which is noticeably brighter than the N760C's), useful Jog Dial navigation wheel, Memory Stick slot, and range-enhanced IR transceiver. The latter enables the device to double as a home-theater remote (made possible by Sony's slick but limited Remote Commander software).

Alas, the T615C has a few hardware hiccups as well. For instance, we found the unusually thin stylus uncomfortable after just a few minutes of Graffiti scribbling. Plus, the tiny rocker nub used for the up/down function is abysmal for its intended purpose—scrolling—and unusable for games (ironic given the Clíé's entertainment-minded trappings). Finally, there's the sound system, which represents a long overdue and phenomenal overhaul of traditional Palm Powered audio—but it doesn't do MP3.

That's a shame, because the embedded speaker sounds outstanding. It's loud, crisp, and capable of playing any MIDI or WAV file (thanks to an included conversion utility for Windows). Appointment calendar alarms have never sounded better (the options to choose vibration and/or a flashing LED don't hurt, either), and Sony packs the T615C with over two dozen bubbly sounds and music snippets. You'll also love hearing the tweaked version of the game Zap!2016 that's bundled with the unit; it's a feast for the ears. With a headphone jack and MP3 support, we'd be in handheld heaven. As it stands, we're on Clíé cloud nine.

With the T415 and T615C, Sony has created yet another unique HotSync connector design, rendering incompatible any accessories (like the Stowaway keyboard) that work with the Clíé N and S series.



The T615C serves up the brightest high-resolution screen we've seen yet.

As if that wasn't bad enough, the new design also prohibits the use of cradle power supplies as travel chargers—a major bonus of other Clíé models.

At least there's a software consolation: the T615C comes with the biggest bundle yet. In addition to some great games, utilities, and movie/photo viewers, Sony serves up Documents To Go Standard Edition, StreetFinder Express, World Alarm Clock, and Clíé Paint—the latter a fun paint program that takes full advantage of the 65,000-color palette. Thanks to the presence of Palm OS 4.1, you can install a virtually endless number of additional applications on a Memory Stick and run them directly from the Apps screen.

It's our job to be critical of certain elements because we want the moon, stars, and sun. But most users have lesser needs and desires; the Clíé T615C, viewed in a vacuum, ranks as one of the top handheld PCs available today. The only model we wouldn't trade it for is our N760C—and that was a tough decision to make.

—Rick Broida

CONTACT

Sony
www.sony.com/clie
Requires: Windows 98 or higher
Price: \$399.99

GOOD

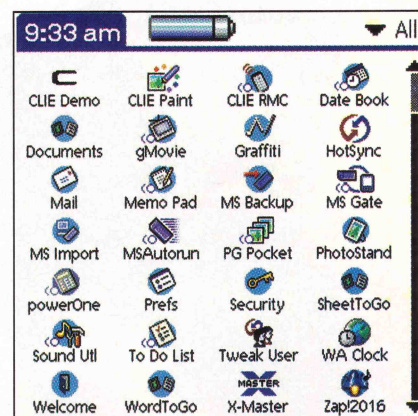
Stylish design, luminescent screen, exquisitely enhanced audio, robust software bundle.

BAD

Dreadful up/down button design, no MP3 support, yet another HotSync connector design.

VERDICT

So close to the perfect Clíé, it hurts.



A new high-resolution option in the launcher lets you see more icons at once.

Handspring Treo 180

CONTACT

Handspring

www.handspring.com

Requires: Windows 98, ME, XP, or 2000; Macintosh OS 8.5 or later; serial port or

Windows 95/NT 4 with

optional serial adapter

Price: \$399 with service

activation, \$549 without

activation.

GOOD

Excellent cell phone shape; 16MB RAM; loud speaker; ringer/vibrate switch.

BAD

No SD card slot or analog service; not enough buttons to launch all the core apps.

VERDICT

The bar has been raised for smartphones, but it's the color version we're really anticipating.



The Handspring Treo has been so anticipated for so long it has an almost circus-like buzz about it. First, a paperwork snafu allowed the FCC to leak pictures of the gadget on its Web site months ahead of schedule. At Fall Comdex, the Treo stole the show, drawing crowds usually more associated with a rock concert. Finally, Handspring CEO Donna Dubinsky unintentionally raised expectations—and the stakes—by suggesting that the company would eventually exit the Visor business to focus exclusively on the Treo. Could any PDA stand up to such hype?

This much is certain: if any PDA can, it's the Treo. Surprisingly small, it measures just 4.3x2.7x0.7 inches. Weighing 5.4 ounces, it's lighter than most Palm handhelds—and even some cellular phones. It's well-balanced and ergonomically designed for both PDA and communicator duties. Of course, everything is shrunk a bit. While most Palm OS handhelds sport an LCD screen that's about 3.25 inches on the diagonal, the Treo's grayscale display measures just 2.8 inches. Contrast and readability are good, especially at night: it has an outstanding reverse backlight, bright and clear. Prefer color?

Wait till Spring, when

Handspring offers the Treo 270.

The Treo is equipped with all of the familiar Palm core applications, though the Address Book has been absorbed into the new Phonebook. Open the Treo's hinged flip cover and the device turns on, automatically switching to the PhoneBook. You can also use a power button atop the device to turn the Treo on without flipping the lid. Using the jog wheel on the side, you can look through the transparent flip cover and scroll around the screen, and even dial

phone numbers, without opening the device. The Phonebook has several views, the first of which will be familiar to VisorPhone users. You can configure up to 50 speed dial numbers, separated onto five pages. You can also dial the number directly by tapping on the on-screen dialpad, working from the call history, or using a modified version of the Address Book. But Handspring, where's the Visor Edge's Fast Lookup feature? It would have been perfect for the Treo.

The other classic applications are still there, but only Date Book gets its own start button on the front of the Treo. The other two buttons have been mapped to applications Handspring thinks you'll need a bit more frequently—the Blazer Web browser and an SMS application that lets you send short text messages to other cell phones and email users. The excellent One-Touch mail client is also onboard for checking Internet email, but it doesn't get its own button.

Handspring has done the unthinkable with the Treo—abandoned Graffiti. In its place, you'll find a tiny keyboard like the one built into the BlackBerry pager. Initially, we were dubious about how well the keyboard would work—the keys are really small and close together—but we found that for messaging, it's generally faster to thumb-type on the Treo keyboard than it is to scribble messages in Graffiti. If you disagree, you can buy the Treo 180g, which has a good-old Graffiti area in place of the keyboard.

While the keyboard is handy for writing emails and SMS messages, it presents a few problems. With no silk-screened buttons on the keyboard-clad Treo, for instance, there simply aren't enough quick-start buttons to go around. Getting to the Application screen is a matter of Shift-clicking a pair of tiny buttons, and that's a real hassle. Likewise, we effectively stopped using the To Do List since the app was no longer one button away. In the end, we re-mapped the SMS button to switch to the Application screen and the Web button to launch the mail client, but it still took too long to get to other important applications.

The Treo 180 raises the number of essential apps from four to seven, but it eliminates a few buttons

The keyboard is a surprisingly effective tool for entering short emails and SMS messages.

And now the phone you've all been waiting for...

in the process. We did discover an undocumented feature that helps a bit here: you can "Shift select" the four buttons on the Treo, actually giving them all two functions each. The Shift functions aren't remappable though, and you must pop the lid to activate the alternate functions.

Keyboard deficiencies aside, this device is perhaps the best yet at making both PDA and communication tasks seem natural and effortless. The flip lid has a beefy speaker (with a speakerphone option, no less, which is loud enough to work several inches away from your ears) that finally fits the contour of your head. Indeed, it's the first smartphone to actually recognize that the human head isn't flat. You can use the included wired earbud, but we generally preferred to just use the Treo like a normal phone. It also has a very cool feature that should make other cell phone users green with envy. If your Treo starts ringing and you don't want to answer, just flip a switch on the top of the unit to the vibrate mode and wait for your voicemail to get the call.

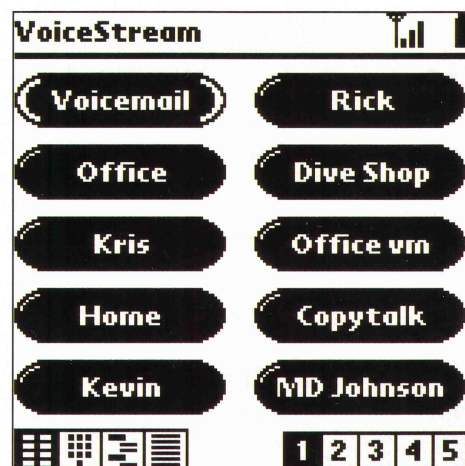
The Treo is powered by the 33-MHz DragonBall processor, making it the fastest Palm smartphone available. It's also one of only a handful of Palm devices to ship with 16MB of RAM, and that's a very welcome feature. On the other hand, it's almost inexcusable that the Treo doesn't come with any sort of expansion capability; an SD slot would have been ideal. Nor is there a HotSync cradle. Handspring includes a charging cable for travel and a USB HotSync cable, which also charges the unit when it's plugged into the PC.

As a phone, the Treo delivers about 2.5 hours of talk time and 60 hours of standby on a single charge. If you turn off the wireless service, though, the Treo's Palm-only battery life extends significantly—to about a week. Unlike the Kyocera and Samsung phones, you can't swap in a new battery.

The Treo runs on the digital Euro-standard GSM network. The real appeal of GSM, of course, is that it is due to be upgraded to GPRS in the near future. GPRS is a wireless broadband cellular service that delivers always-on Internet access. When that hap-



One-Touch can dial into an ISP and download email while you're on the go.



You can configure as many as 50 entries in the speed dialer.

pens, Handspring claims that the Treo is ready to rock. Until then, though, GSM-enabled phones like the Treo are hobbled by somewhat limited coverage areas; you may find that your Treo goes quiet when you travel to smaller cities, since it has no analog service backup.

You can buy the Treo for \$399 (or \$549 without a service plan). Who offers service for the Treo? At press time, Handspring was mum, but VoiceStream and Cingular deliver GSM networks, so you can draw your own conclusions. Is Treo the perfect Palm phone? Almost. We'd prefer better cellular coverage, an SD expansion card, and perhaps a few more quick-launch application buttons. Throw in color (coming soon) and you'd have the perfect beast. But at its core, Treo is a great phone in a very usable PDA. Indeed, it may be the best one yet.

—Dave Johnson



The Treo comes with an earbud, but it works so well as a phone that we rarely plugged it in.

Blackjack Mentor, Blackjack Counter

Putting the lid on lady luck

CONTACT

DeepNet Technologies
www.deepnettech.com
Requires: Palm OS 3.0 or higher
Blackjack Mentor 3.0/98K/\$10
Blackjack Counter 3.0/152K/\$20
Blackjack Expert 2.0/92K/\$20

GOOD

A well-documented and thorough approach to Blackjack systems.

BAD

There is definite learning curve to smart Blackjack.

VERDICT

If you're serious about Blackjack, these programs can pay off. If you just want a game, try freeware.



Casinos can afford to stay in business because their games have a built-in house advantage, and a player winning money requires luck in the short run and is unlikely in the long run. Aficionados of Blackjack and craps are quick to note, however, that if approached properly, the house advantage in those games can be eliminated, or even turned slightly to the player's advantage in the case of Blackjack. Gaining this advantage requires following a set of rigid rules regarding when and how to take cards, and it also requires skill in counting the cards already played to determine when it is smart to vary your bets or deviate from the basic strategy.

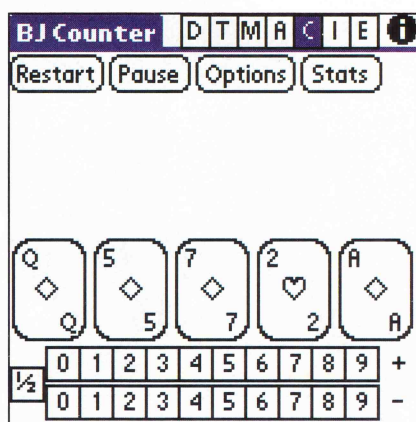
Helping you master these rules and hone your counting skills is the purpose of a trio of programs from DeepNet Technologies—Blackjack Mentor, Blackjack Counter, and Blackjack Expert. As a whole, these programs and their outstanding documentation do an excellent job both of educating and drilling you on strategy and on simulating all the usual variations in Blackjack rules. Furthermore, players interested in developing their own counting systems can drill and test those too.

Blackjack Mentor is DeepNet's entry level offering into the world of savvy Blackjack, and it is geared towards learning basic strategy, the mastery of which can reduce the house advantage to .05%. On the table of the possible player hands and possible dealer upcards, there are nearly 300 combina-

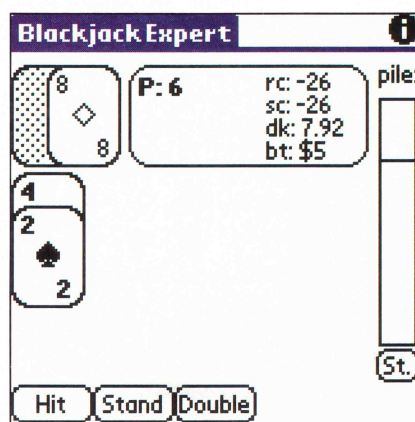
tions. Memorizing what you should do in most situations is easy, but in many cases—such as when you should split or double down—the proper move is by no means obvious. Blackjack Mentor drills you on these combinations, focusing on the ones that you have problems with. It also allows you to review the tables of possible card combinations, select from five preset strategy tables depending on the specific rules of the Blackjack game you're preparing for, and even enter your own strategy table for other rules variations. It does not allow you to actually play Blackjack, however.

After learning basic strategy, the next step is learning to count cards, which can theoretically give you an advantage over the house of up to 2%. In addition to offering all of the features of Blackjack Mentor, Blackjack Counter offers a wide variety of different ways to drill you on card counting. The drills can be timed or untimed, and can focus only on the counts or on the impact these counts have on proper betting and strategy as well. Certain card counts will lead you to deviate from basic strategy, and Blackjack Counter builds on the basic drills of Blackjack Mentor by incorporating these alternative strategy tables. There is more than one system for counting cards, and in addition to eleven preset systems, Blackjack Counter allows you to enter your own system. DeepNet also sells more documented systems and strategy sets.

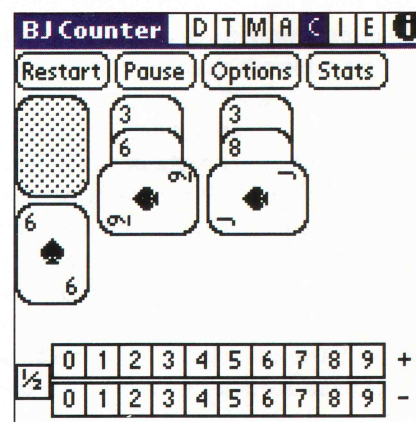
If you are ready to put everything you've



Practicing speed counting in *Blackjack Counter*.



Playing against the dealer—and the statistics—in *Blackjack Expert*.



Counting hands in *Blackjack Counter*.





unter, Blackjack Expert

learned together—and finally to play some Blackjack on your Palm—you'll have to turn to DeepNet's third product, Blackjack Expert. Blackjack Expert allows you to set all of the rules of the game—number of decks, when is double-down allowed, etc.—and it tracks your long term performance statistics. To get the most out of Blackjack Expert, you need to have Blackjack Counter installed as well. If you do, Blackjack Expert will test your play using the strategy indexes and count systems from Blackjack Counter, telling you when you have made an incorrect play or bet. Or if you ever find the notices that you have made an incorrect play to be getting too oppressive, you can always turn the testing off and just play some Blackjack.

The bottom line with Blackjack as with all gam-

bling is that luck predominates in the short run and statistical probabilities rule the long run. If you are in it for the long run—if you plan to play a lot of Blackjack—then DeepNet's thorough and well-documented Blackjack software is an excellent way to pull the statistical advantage into your favor. The protracted drilling in strategy and card-counting, however, are unlikely to be of interest if you aren't preparing for a real-world Blackjack binge or aren't obsessed with mathematical probabilities.

—Nick McElveen

BJ Mentor		D	T	M	A	C	I	E	i
Dealer's Hand:									
Player's Hand:			<div>Skip</div>						
<div>Hit</div>			<div>Stand</div>		<div>Double</div>		<div>Split</div>		
Total Session Hand									
Correct	148	0	1						
Incorrect	26	0	1						

Getting tested on basic strategy in *Blackjack Mentor*.

Jibe 1.1 Outlook Express email addresses on your handheld

Outlook at work. Outlook Express at home. Palm OS in my pocket. Keeping all of those names and addresses straight across a Palm and a notebook and my PC at work, especially e-mail addresses, is almost a part-time job. But Chapura's Jibe has removed all of the hassles of keeping those different contact databases separate.

Because Jibe works as a conduit between the Palm Desktop and Outlook Express, there's nothing to install on the handheld. Simply run the installation and have Jibe synchronize all of the e-dresses in Outlook Express with your Palm Desktop date book.

Jibe does have some limitations. It only works within the fields of the Palm Desktop, so if you have a friend with more than 5 e-dresses listed in Outlook Express you can't export all of those into the Palm Desktop. (Add any extras to the Other field in the Palm Desktop.)

Jibe does a pretty good job handling the multiple identities you can set up in Outlook Express, even if the procedure is a little awkward. By deleting the Jibe data file on your PC (jrels.dat) Jibe will ask you to enter an identity when you Hotsync. You can use this deletion strategy to synchronize different identities on your Palm device. If you want to synchronize multiple Palm devices to the same PC, just be sure to enter the correct identity when you Hotsync.

For those who prefer Outlook Express for e-mail but the Palm Desktop for information and contact management, Jibe makes the right connection.



Your Outlook Express address book and your Palm Address Book can share the same names and e-mail information without your having to lift a finger.

CONTACT

Chapura
www.chapura.com
Requires: Palm handheld running Palm OS 3.0 or higher; PC running Windows 95 or later, 16MB RAM 2MB HD space; Outlook Express.
Version Tested: 1.1

GOOD

Saves tons of time reentering email addresses.

BAD

Awkward handling of multiple Outlook Express identities.

VERDICT

Well worth a look for anyone who uses Outlook Express and Palm Desktop.



—Pete Scisco

CONTACT

Pellico Systems
www.charge-n-run.com
Requires: Palm IIIx, IIIxe, IIIe, VII, VIIx, Symbol SPT1500, IBM WorkPad c5
Version Tested: 1.0
Price: \$39.95

GOOD

Convenient connection to the recharger and long battery life saves time and money.

BAD

No automobile attachment.

VERDICT

A superbly engineered battery solution.



Charge-N-Run No-hassle rechargeables

While the newest Palm devices feature rechargeable batteries, older models still make use of alkaline batteries. Thankfully, battery recharging systems let owners of Palm III and Palm VII series models move away from the environmentally and economically suspect alkaline disposable batteries. One of the newest entries into the rechargeable field is the Charge-n-Run adapter from Pellico Systems.

The Charge-n-Run uses a NiMH battery pack that fits the battery compartment of the Palm. The standard battery compartment door is replaced with a door that allows the rechargeable battery's terminals to show through so that they can make contact with the recharging base. The replacement battery compartment door fits flush with the Palm's body and the release lever remains out of the way but accessible.

The Charge-n-Run recharging unit fits over the Palm HotSync cradle, then plugs into a wall outlet. To recharge your Palm, just place it in your cradle. A light signals when the unit is charging and when a full charge is complete. This setup is extremely convenient, but supports charging only in the cradle, not from a car or other 12-volt power source.

The Charge-N-Run battery pack is rated at 650mAh; the initial charge requires an eight-hour connection. Pellico rates the operating life between charges between three to four weeks for regular use. The company estimates the battery pack will last from two to three years, which is reason enough to abandon alkaline batteries. The battery pack and the charger are both designed to protect against short circuits.

If you aren't already using rechargeable batteries in your Palm, the Charge-N-Run is a clever, well-designed alternative. It's convenient, and makes both ecological and economic sense. —Pete Scisco



Attach the Charge-N-Run to your HotSync cradle and put batteries out of your mind.

SnapNPlay A shot of that old Nintendo feel

CONTACT

TT-Tec
www.tt-tec.com
Requires: Handspring Visor
Size: 14k (driver)
Price: \$29.95

GOOD

Smooth D-pad action, vibration mode, saves wear and tear on the Visor.

BAD

Clumsy software driver, vibration is often always-on.

VERDICT

A better game controller than the Handspring GameFace.



There's nothing like a good game of Zap or Pinball to pass the time, but mashing on those buttons with adrenaline-soaked thumbs isn't exactly helping to extend the life of your Visor. And whoever heard of a game in which you move around with a Date Book button, anyway? What the Visor needs is a good old-fashioned D-pad and fire button.

And that's exactly what you get with SnapNPlay, a game adapter for the Handspring Visor. Unlike Handspring's own GameFace, this gadget's buttons communicate with the Visor through the serial port. SnapNPlay delivers an 8-way D-pad, two fire buttons, and a suite of non-gaming controls—buttons for power, the menu, and the Application screen. You also get vibration feedback, just like in a Nintendo game controller. SnapNPlay keys vibration to when a game plays sound, though, so in many games the controller vibrates continuously unless you just turn that feature off.

Overall, compatibility is good; we found that SnapNPlay worked well with virtually every arcade game we tried. In many cases, you'll need to remap the buttons so SnapNPlay's D-pad and fire buttons know which keys to emulate. And that's a sore point—you'll spend a lot of time remapping buttons before you can play. It would be nice if the driver saved profiles instead of forcing you to remap each button every time. The driver also conflicts with beaming and HotSyncs, so you need to manually deactivate the SnapNPlay after every gaming session. Still, SnapNPlay is a great little gadget if you're more than a casual gamer.

—Dave Johnson



SnapNPlay's D-pad has a good feel for arcade action.

FilePoint 2.0

Take control of your Palm OS files

Unlike file managers that merely act as replacements for the standard Palm OS application launcher, FilePoint 2.0 is also designed to help you organize your handheld's files. FilePoint provides three different file views: a split-screen "Windows" style view with available file folders in one window and files in another; a file only view; and an icon view similar to the standard Palm OS launcher. When viewing files you can choose to see only specific types of files (applications, memos, spreadsheets, etc.) and to view files contained in the handheld's ram, external memory, or both.

FilePoint also allows you to see only those files that have been placed in the program's custom folders, to help you better categorize the information in your handheld. FilePoint opens with a default folder setting of My Folder and two sub-folders, Business and Personal. You can add any number of main and sub-folders to the view and then drag the appropriate files to a folder. Once you've arranged your files, you can then choose to view only those files in the appropriate folder. A folder related to a project could contain a QuickSheet spreadsheet file, a WordSmith document, and the launch icon for Action Names Datebook. Folder views may be expanded or contracted to suit your needs.

Arranged at the bottom of the FilePoint screen are options to create, launch, beam, copy, or delete files. FilePoint allows you to create a new file in nearly any Palm OS software format, by creating a specially named file with the appropriate software. When you select the icon to create a new file, you are presented with a list of file formats you've configured in FilePoint. If you use Bachmann Software's PrintBoy, you can also print files from the FilePoint menu. Automatic file launching supports

most popular Palm software formats.

While FilePoint 2.0 supports expansion memory on Palm m-series, Visor, and Clie handhelds, it does not currently support expansion memory cards on HandEra handhelds. Bachmann Software expects to support the HandEra in a future release. Of course, users of Palm OS handhelds without expansion memory can use FilePoint's functions for managing their files.

The major failure of FilePoint 2.0 is the lack of support for the VFS file system. Why is this important? Simple, many programs expect to find files in a specifically named folder on the expansion card. For example, the picture viewer on the Sony Clie expects to find its files in the /Palm/Programs/Picturegear folder in the Memory Stick. If you copy a picture file from internal memory to expansion memory using FilePoint, the image file is placed in the Launcher directory in the expansion ram. Since the software expects to find the image in the appropriate folder, an image located in the Launcher folder isn't available for viewing.

FilePoint is definitely a contender, offering a unique and powerful method for managing and categorizing your files and folders. Until Bachmann Software adds native support for Palm's VFS directory structure, however, it falls short of championship status.

—Bob Eller

CONTACT

Bachmann Software and Services, LLC
www.bachmannsoftware.com
 Requires: Any Palm Hardware with Palm OS 3.0
 Version Tested: 2.0
 Size: 122K
 Price: \$29.95

GOOD

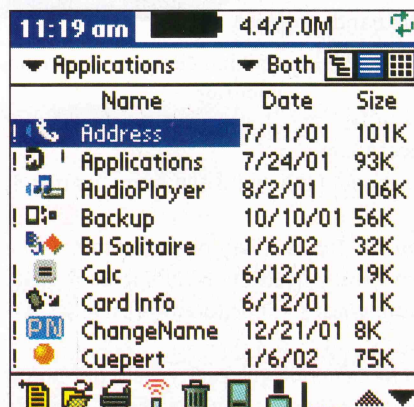
Provides a myriad of file management and launcher options. With this many options you will likely find one that suits your personal style.

BAD

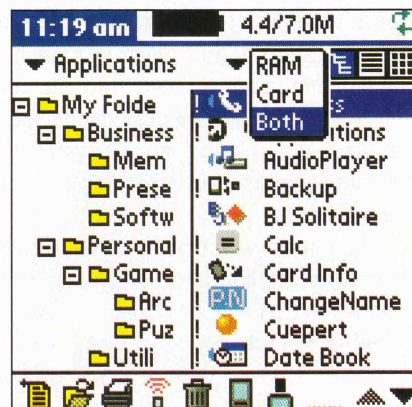
Doesn't support standard Palm VFS folder naming conventions or HandEra external memory.

VERDICT

FilePoint has the potential to be a great product, but it needs to fully support Palm OS VFS file standards.



Filepoint's file view lets you track your files by both date and size.



In the split-screen view you can setup folders and move your handheld's files to the appropriate folder by dragging them with your stylus.

CONTACT

Mythological Software
www.mythological.com
Requires: PalmOS v2.0 or higher
Version Tested: 1.0.0
Size: 1.4MB
Price: \$26.95

GOOD

Bigger, more polished than the original, and in color.

BAD

Rather pricey, and eats up a lot of RAM.

VERDICT

One of the best classic role-playing games available on any handheld platform.



Dragon Bane II Classic role-playing gets colorful

If you ever played the Bard's Tale or Wizardry games on the PC, then you already know what to expect from Mythological Software's Dragon Bane II. The first Dragon Bane game has been around for several years, and is still a must-play for anyone with a taste for classic dungeon-crawl role-playing. The sequel is even better, adding support for 8-bit color, a larger game world, and more polished gameplay.

The story picks up where the first game left off. An evil cult is planning to revive the dragon king Kra'an, currently imprisoned in the gemstone of the Dragon Bane sword. It's up to you to save the world. You can jump right into the action even if you never played the first game; the specifics of the story make nice window dressing, but the meat of the experience is in the exploration and combat.

That's where Dragon Bane II excels. There are more classes (Fighter, Dwarf, Thief, Troglodyte, Archer, Sorcerer, Necromancer, and Wizard) and more characters to choose from. You start with a single fighter and visit the various "Innes" scattered about the city of New Treleon to recruit up to four additional party members (the sixth spot is reserved for summoned creatures). Combat is simple but satisfying, and there is a good mix of fights, exploration, and basic puzzle solving throughout the game.

It's a tried and true formula, and it works. While Dragon Bane II is a bit on the pricey side, you can expect more user-made content when the promised level editor (currently in beta) is finally released to the public.

—Benjamin E. Sones



The game's day and night cycles look great in 8-bit color.

CONTACT

Shinei International Pte Ltd
www.clipmodem.com
Requires: Palm m100 or m105
Price: \$49.95

GOOD

Includes MultiMail SE.

BAD

Documentation concentrates on Modem HotSync.

VERDICT

A well built, inexpensive modem solution for m100/m105 handheld owners.



Clipmodem clip-on 56K Internet access for the m100/m105

Palm never delivered a modem for the m100/m105, but Shinei has filled in this important gap in the peripheral department. The clipmodem is about the same size as the m100/m105 itself, but is "scooped out" to provide a cavity to slide the device into. It doesn't feel that large once clipped onto the handheld. The snug fit and clever lock seem to make the modem and handheld meld into one device.

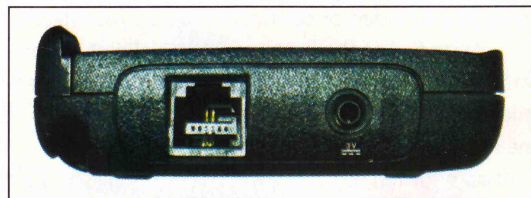
The modem is held onto the device by a nifty, spring-loaded "stylus" nib. Conveniently located on the corresponding portion of the back of the modem is a stylus silo where your stylus will live while using the modem.

The modem includes a CD with MultiMail SE. This is a very nice addition, as the stock m100 doesn't include an email application (the m105 doesn't really need to install this, as it includes Multimail Pro in the Mobile Internet Kit). MultiMail's very thorough Wizard application will have you sending and retrieving e-mail in minutes.

The documentation covers Network and Modem HotSync pretty well, but unfortunately doesn't touch on basic Internet provider setups, or even mention them. If you need help in this department, Palm has some good MultiMail documentation located at www.palm.com/support/multimail/mm_netref.html.

Overall, the clipmodem is an excellent product for anyone with a Palm m100 or m105 who needs to remotely retrieve their e-mail or hotsync with their computers. The cost is very low compared to other Palm modem prices, and the setup and use are very straight forward.

—Calvin O. Parker



The thin Clipmodem attaches to the back of the m100/m105.

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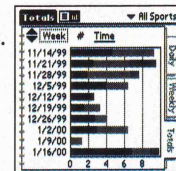
No dupes!

Duplicate entries can be the bane of the Palm user's existence. When things go wrong with HotSync, you can end up with hundreds or thousands of duplicate addresses, datebook entries, etc. Let **UnDupe** remove them all with a single tap! **Platinum certified.**



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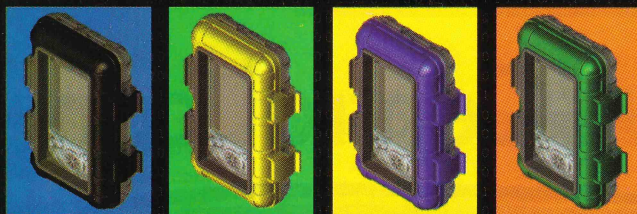
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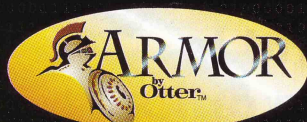
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The Heavy Armor is designed for the professional that uses their Handheld device in less than ideal conditions. The applications range from military, industrial, emergency services, outdoor sports, airline, automotive, hunting or any other harsh environment where the device could be subject to dirt, water, shock or impact. The transparent Screen Saver allows the full use of the touch screen and buttons without having to remove the device. Infrared beaming of information and data can still be done while the PDA is enclosed.



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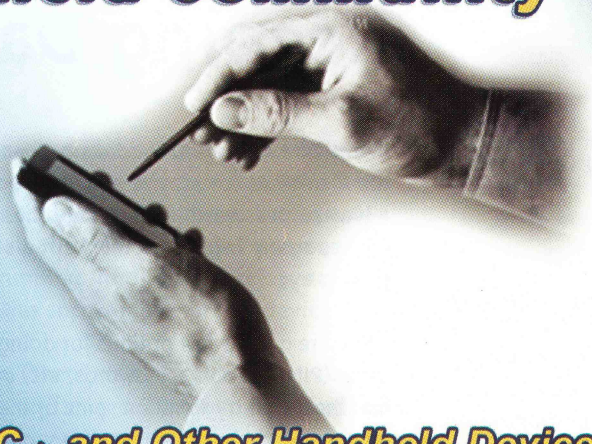
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PALM 101

THE FAQ FILES

Keeping Data Private

by Calvin O. Parker

In each issue, Palm FAQ-master Calvin O. Parker answers questions large and small, simple and technical. Send yours to calvin@hhcmag.com

I want to keep my ATM card number and PIN in the MemoPad (or maybe Address Book). Is there a way to password protect only these types of entries so my information is kept a secret from prying eyes?

There are quite a few options for doing this type of thing (PIN numbers, passwords, etc) on a Palm OS handheld. I'll try to hit on some of the more popular ones (and I know I'm leaving some out).

Using the built-in security options, the later versions of Palm OS allow you "mask" records that are marked as Private. For all the built-in apps, go into the "Details screen" and check the Private

checkbox, then select "Current Privacy" to be Mask Records. You will then be prompted for your Security password when you tap on a "masked out" record. Using this method, you'd probably opt to store your sensitive information either in the Address Book or Memo Pad applications.

This method is actually pretty secure for most folks. Casual Palm Desktop users can't synchronize your handheld to their desktop and be able to see your sensitive information without your password. However, anyone that is knowledgeable with some relatively simple tools on the desktop can still see your data with a little work. So...

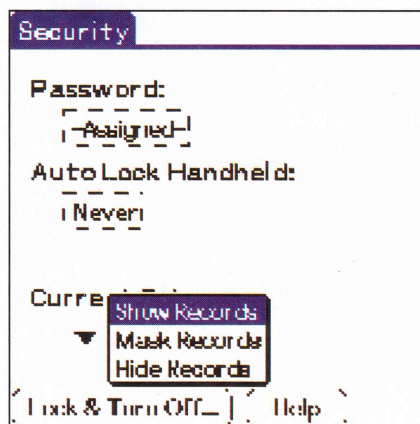
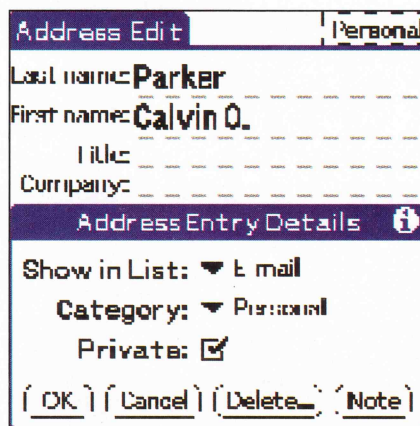
A more secure option is to *encrypt* the data on your handheld. This actually "scrambles" your data in a manner that is in most cases *very* difficult for someone, even experienced "hackers", to get access to your information. There are several ways to do this.

One option is to use a program like ReadThis! which allows you to encrypt any text you can edit on the device right in the application as you edit it. This and the multitude of other applications that do this are great for those that only want access to the information on their handheld.

Another option for folks that only want to use this type of functionality on their handheld is to get a stand-alone application that is meant to hold this type of information, and encrypts it on the fly. The only drawback for these applications is that if you want to access/edit your information on the desktop, you can't.

However, if you want to be able to access/edit your information on your PC, then you'll want one of the several applications that have a conduit and desktop application that keeps your information on both your handheld *and* your desktop.

Personally, I store not only Palm-relevant information in this type of application, but also online web site usernames and passwords in addition to my PIN numbers and Credit card account info. This,



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Work and Play: Tasks for Palm-Powered Phones

at least for me, means that an application that can use both a desktop and handheld application makes more sense.

For either of these types of applications (those with and without a desktop application/conduit), you can search PalmGear.com for "encrypt" and find most of them.

I have lost the manual that came with my handheld. Can I get another one?

If you bought a Palm-branded handheld, you have two choices. You can go to the online Palm Store (store.palm.com) to purchase another copy. Or, if you don't mind using an electronic version, all the product handbooks are available by going to the Handhelds support page for your model (go to www.palm.com/support/palmhandhelds.html and click on your particular model. The manual link(s) are normally in the lower right of the page).

I'm not sure about the other licensees and getting copies of the actual manuals, but for online versions:

Sony: www.ita.sel.sony.com/support/clie/

Handspring: support.handspring.com/esupport/forms/hsFileList.jsp?Type=UserGuides

Handera: www.handera.com/support/faq.asp

(click on your model to get to page with documentation downloads)

I'd like to only synchronize a particular category/categories in the ToDo list application to my desktop. Can I do this?

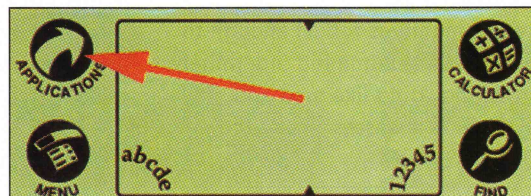
Nope. The built in applications sync all or nothing.

I just got a new handheld and want to add applications to it. However, when I go to a download location, I see that the requirements list Palm OS 3.0 and Palm III. I don't know what version of Palm OS I'm running. And I have a m105, not a Palm III. Will this software run on my device?

Good question. These are almost always minimum requirements. So if they call for Palm OS 3.0 and a Palm III, your more recent m105 running OS 3.5 will work just fine. Of course, if in doubt, contact the developer (most of these download sites include an e-mail link, if not a direct web-site link) to see if it supports your handheld.

I loaded an application on my Visor Neo and now am stuck. I don't know what to do. I can't find a pull down screen to get out.

You really don't have to exit Palm OS applications, you can just switch to another by hitting one of the handheld's buttons or tap the Applications silkscreen button (an arrow or house, depending on your handheld) to go back to the list of available applications and in effect exit the application you're currently in.



Rick Broida Vs. Dave Johnson

The End of the Springboard?

DAVE: In a move akin to McDonald's phasing out the Big Mac or Chevrolet abandoning the automotive market, Handspring has clumsily announced that eventually, the future will only be coming up Treo for the second largest Palm OS vendor. So, what's the bottom line for the death of Visor? Overdue or premature? Inevitable or visionary? Insane or just plain crazy?

RICK: The latter description applies to you. As for the rest of it, Handspring CEO Donna Dubinsky's remark about "transitioning out of the organizer business" couldn't have been more poorly timed (or phrased). The Visor kicked Palm's butt upon its debut and continues to sell briskly, but what buyer is going to choose one when he knows Handspring is eventually dumping the line? Meanwhile, Springboard developers are left flapping in the breeze, as Treos have no module socket.

DAVE: You hit the nail on the head—both buyers and developers are henceforth going to treat the Visor like it has the measles. That's why Handspring quickly backtracked, "clarifying" that the Visor's demise wasn't imminent. But the damage has been done. I guess I'll never have the opportunity to buy a 32MB, hi-res version of the Prism that uses all my existing Springboard modules. Which may be for the best anyway—Springboard technology is so 1990s that its demise was inevitable.

RICK: Overstatement as usual. Springboard technology may not be cutting edge, but it's still perfectly viable and quite practical for many users. Anyway, Handspring's move may make sense—if the long-term plan is a merger with Palm's hardware division. And while Visor developers and users will suffer for it, at least the third-party community is robust enough to keep product support and development humming indefinitely. The fly in the ointment is Sony, innovating like mad and threatening the vitality of all Palm OS licensees (including Palm's own hardware division).

DAVE: The world continues to turn, vacuum tube-boy; try to keep up. The issue isn't that Springboard itself is obsolete. It's that Handspring invented an oversized, somewhat clumsy peripheral format for the Visor when everyone else had the foresight to go with a sleek, forward-looking standard. Palm has SD, Sony has Memory Stick, HandEra has CompactFlash and

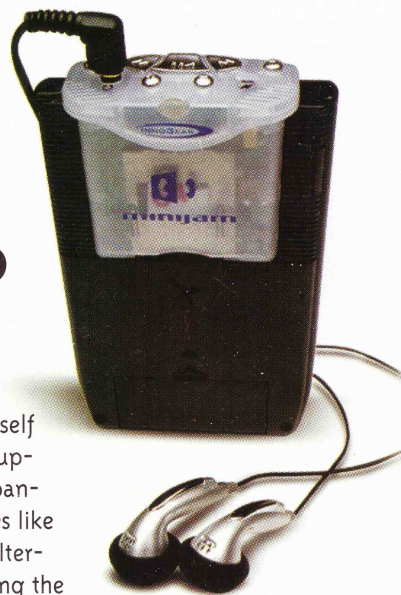
SD. The end result?

Handspring engineered itself into a corner, unable to support its own standard expansion format in new devices like the Edge or the Treo. Its alternatives include abandoning the format, which will leave dozens of developers high and dry, or continue to make increasingly clumsy PDAs as the world innovates around them.

RICK: Somebody check the sky for flying donkeys—Dave is actually making sense! You've never said anything more accurate than "Handspring engineered itself into a corner." Ah, but hindsight is 20/20—Handspring *invented* the expandable handheld, and did a damn fine job of it. It was only later that Palm and Sony came along with SD and Memory Stick, making Springboard seem bulky in comparison. The real problem is memory, which is vast and affordable for Palms and Sonys but still limited and pricey for Visors. Nevertheless, just as countless users are still making do with a "lowly" Palm III, so can most Visor users get by with their "clumsy PDAs." I just think it's a shame to see Springboard abandoned.

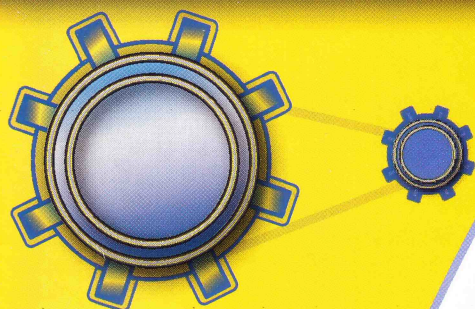
DAVE: Sure, Visor users *could* get by, but they won't. Not only has Handspring signed a death warrant for all of its loyal Springboard developers, but they've made the Visor a bitter purchase as well. Not many people will run out to buy a new Visor knowing that the product is barreling toward a dead end, soon due to be pruned from the Handspring tree forever. Handspring might sell a lot of Visors on clearance, but they've alienated mainstream PDA buyers who want their purchases to live a long, well-supported life. That could really, really hurt them if Treo sales don't pan out the way they hope.

RICK: Normally I'd say that because the Visor runs the Palm OS, its longevity is assured. But the lack of flash ROM means the OS can't be upgraded, a sting many Visor users are starting to feel. Is Handspring making a smart business move by chucking the Visor line? Probably, because the market has changed too much for them to compete effectively. Is it disappointing? Absolutely. Can they survive on the Treo alone? I sure hope so.



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